Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you know what Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution is about?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

ASIA

North Korea is preparing for a third nuclear test, according to South Korea.

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CAMPUS LIFE

The employment market may be picking up, but graduating seniors are still antsy.

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LIFE & STYLE

Angelina Jolie is turning wicked as one of Disney's most-famous villains.

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Delay in CW permits 'is messed up'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Almost five months since the filing of petitions for over 11,000 foreign workers by the November deadline, most CNMI employees have yet to hear from the federal government whether they will be able to keep their long-term nonresident employees.

"It's disappointing. It's messed up," said Allen Xie, president of ACA Corp., which owns a wholesale company and the "I Love Saipan" retail store in Garapan.

In an interview yesterday, Xie said their wholesale firm submitted Commonwealth-only worker petitions in October—a month before the Nov. 28, 2011,

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17 CHC nurses resign

»Exodus feared will result in nursing shortage at hospital

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Seventeen nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center have officially tendered their resignations in the last few weeks, heightening fears of a manpower shortage at the hospital in coming months.

Saipan Tribune learned that a total of 17 nurses stationed in various sections and units at the hospital have turned in their notices, most of them effective after 90 days. Sources said that more nurses are expected to fol-

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dr. Tan Siu Lin and wife Lam Pak Kim lead the presentation of the 5,000-piece laptop sleeve donation to Public School System officials and students during the 40th anniversary celebration of Tan Holdings at the Saipan Grand Hotel lobby yesterday. The donation, which amounts to $100,000, matches the laptops distributed to public junior and high school students in the CNMI. ***See more photos on Page 13***

Tan Holdings celebrates 40 years in Micronesia

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

What began as a decision to extend a shipping and trading business from Hong Kong to the Western Pacific has led to the founding of Tan Holdings, a family business that has grown and diversified substantially through the years.

This year, Tan Holdings is celebrating 40 years of doing business in Micronesia and 30 years in the CNMI, thanks to its founding president, Dr. Tan Siu Lin, who laid the groundwork for the family holdings company and whose vision gave birth to an economic powerhouse in the region.

The 80-year-old Tan and his wife, Lam Pek Kim, were at the forefront of the anniversary program held at the newly renovated lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe, where family members were joined by government officials, business leaders, and company executives.

A Polynesian dance group welcomed guests at the lobby, while the Marianas High School Rhythm and Harmony Glee Club and the MHS Cho-

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PSS, NMTI *get* $284K *worth of donations and scholarships*

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Students of the Public School System and the Northern Marianas Trade Institute were named major recipients of thousands of dollars worth of donations and scholarship from Tan Holdings as the company celebrates its 40th year of doing business in Micronesia.

Led by Tan Holdings board chair Dr. Tan Siu Lin, a total of $284,000 worth of donations and scholarship grants were presented to school adminis-

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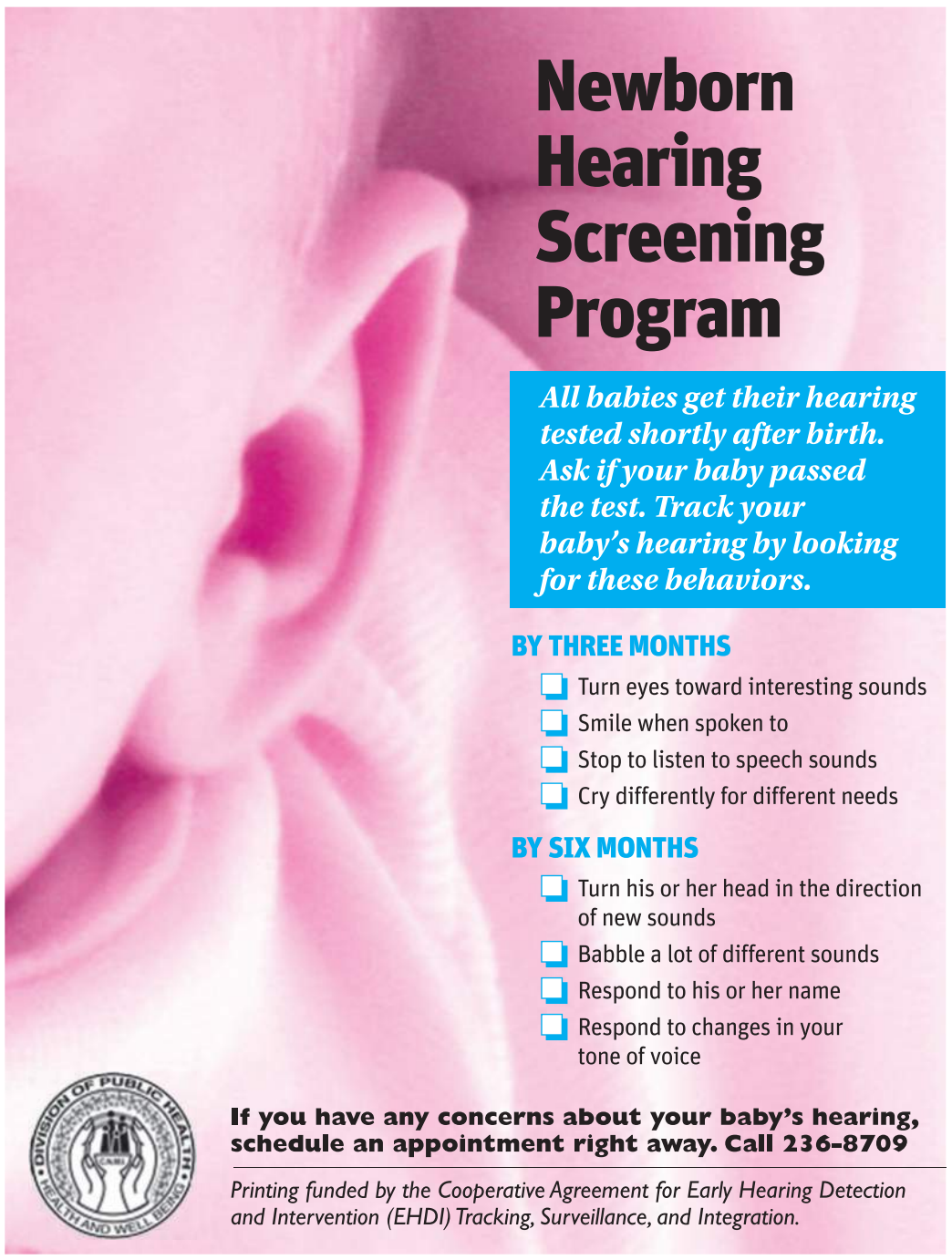
7 PSS employees to return alleged improper payments. PAGE 3

Fitial orders AG, DPL to look into COP lease. PAGE 6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Respond to changes in your tone of voice
If you have any concerns about your baby's hearing, schedule an appointment right away. Call 236-8709
Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.

Local

SHRM's Workforce Readiness ready to go

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management announces the first phase of its Workforce Readiness Initiative on Monday, April 16. The CNMI SHRM was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior through the CNMI Department of Commerce in support of the CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program. This initiative to benefit the community will kick off on April 16 with a one-week Warehouseman training program.

SHRM's role in administering this grant through its Workforce Readiness Initiative will be to facilitate the preparation of unemployed U.S. qualified workers through job preparation and skills training to be better qualified to enter the CNMI job market. SHRM will:

■ Establish a program of training that will assist U.S. qualified workers (U.S. citizens, FAS citizens, and green card holders) to be better prepared to join the CNMI workforce

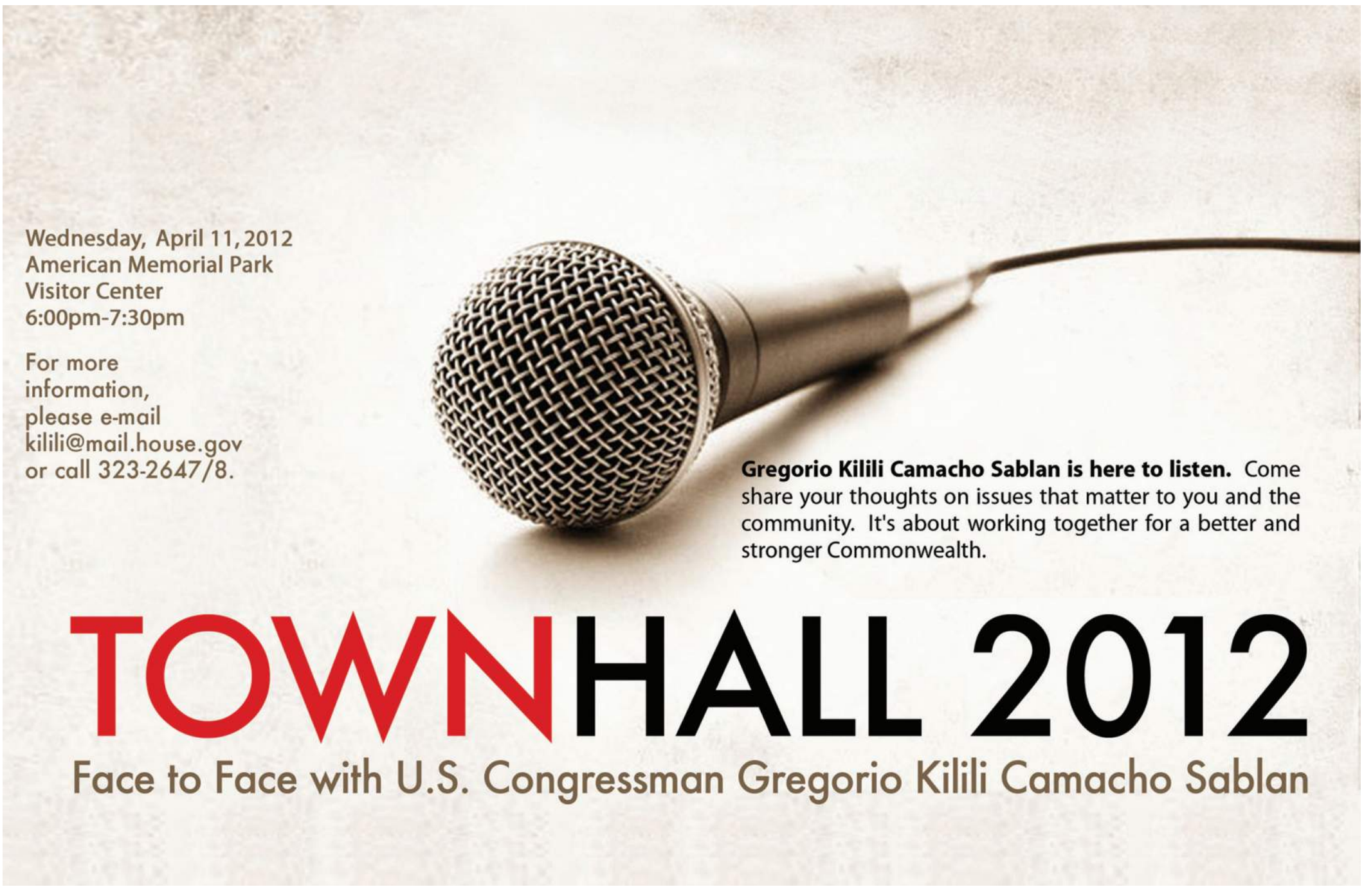
■ Assist as possible in the placement of training graduates with companies that have agreed to accept Workforce Readiness graduates either in an on-the-job training or employment basis

In order to accomplish the intent of this grant, SHRM needs the help of the business community. The Workforce Readiness Initiative will consist of a series of one-week pre-placement training programs with a combination of general employee enhancement and job specific skills in employment areas where SHRM-member companies and other community businesses have indicated a need for replacement or additional staff. The initiative will start off with warehouseman training, followed by wait staff, food service workers, housekeepers, telephone operators, clerical and other job-types, as the needs are identified. It is expected that the Warehouseman program will include forklift certification training to enhance the graduates' value to prospective employers.

SHRM asks that businesses notify the Workforce Readiness Initiative of types of staff that they might need, so that the initiative can arrange training programs to help fill these needs. SHRM also asks community businesses to work with the initiative to place the people trained by the various programs into their organizations. In turn, the SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative will be working with the Workforce Investment Agency and the CNMI Department of Labor to obtain suitable candidates that can receive WIA support to help with salary costs.

As mentioned above, the Workforce Readiness Initiative is for the benefit of unemployed U.S. qualified workers. Qualified individuals who are registered with WIA or the DOL Employment Services should contact those offices and let them know of their interest. Those who are not registered and are interested in the initiative should also contact those offices and express their interest. All interested candidates should sign up with WIA to allow them to help employers with funding of initiative graduates. You can also contact Frank Gibson, the Workforce Readiness Initiative manager by e-mail at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

Although the initiative cannot guarantee a job for every participant, it will make every effort to get each graduate employed. Several companies have already committed to accepting initiative graduates and the initiative will continue to source jobs through its SHRM-member companies and other employers. Companies interested in considering initiative graduates can also contact Gibson. ***(SHRM)***


Wednesday, April 11, 2012
American Memorial Park
Visitor Center
6:00pm-7:30pm
For more information, please e-mail kilili@mail.house.gov or call 323-2647/8.
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is here to listen. Come share your thoughts on issues that matter to you and the community. It's about working together for a better and stronger Commonwealth.
TOWNHALL 2012
Face to Face with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

7 PSS employees agree to return alleged improper payments

»BOE closes probes on annual leave cash-out

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada disclosed yesterday that all investigations on the alleged improper cash out of annual leaves by some employees have been terminated and the case is now considered closed.

Ada said that based on the board-initiated probe, seven certified and non-certified employees who were found to have received improper payments from the Public School System have agreed to pay back the money.

She declined to elaborate about the involved personnel, citing confidentiality of records. However, Ada pointed out that the seven personnel did not actually cash out their annual leaves as alleged in the complaint letter to the board that prompted the investigation.

"For the record, these seven personnel didn't cash out their vacation leave and they just took one payroll advance, which is enough if anything happens as their leave [credits] is still there," Ada told *Saipan Tribune*.

When asked about the estimated amount that will be paid back to the system, she declined to comment but hinted that the figure is minimal.

Former Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison wrote to board members in November last year to ask for an investigation into the alleged improper annual leave cash out of some personnel, including Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan. In his letter, he alleged that some personnel cashed out up to 400 hours of annual leave.

The board initiated an investigation and made a decision on the non-certified personnel involved in January this year. At that time, the probe on certified employees was pending.

Ada came out yesterday that the board has already completed both investigations and the case has already been closed.

"Yes, it's done and the case is now closed. They all paid back. And for the record, there's nobody [among the seven personnel] who received single check of $30,000 and they didn't cash out their leaves. What they did was they just took one payroll advance," said Ada, adding that most of the involved personnel just took about only $2,000.

Ada described the matter as a minimal problem that was easily resolved. She maintained that board policy stands on cashing out of annual leaves, which is only permitted when employees are separated from the system.

Sensitive issue

Meantime, Ada described as "sensitive" the issue about the sick-leave donation policy being proposed to the board. If passed, PSS employees can receive accrued sick leave donations from co-workers if they needed them in seeking off-island treatment for life-threatening illnesses.

This matter is pending for further review, according to Ada.

She said the proposal will have a financial impact on the system and needs careful analysis.

"It's a sensitive issue but we are aware that we have to give some sick leave to those who really need them. The board has yet to make a decision because we have to make sure that if this will be passed, it will treat everybody the same," added Ada.

Guam judge directs UMDA, Saito to submit confidential settlement letter

U.S. Magistrate Judge of the District of Guam Joaquin V. E. Manibusan Jr. has ordered United Micronesia Development Association Inc.'s former chief financial officer Hiroyuki Saito and UMDA to each submit a confidential settlement letter by April 18, 2012.

In an order issued Monday, Manibusan set the settlement conference for April 27, 2012.

Manibusan said the attorney leading the settlement conference must be the lead trial counsel.

"All parties or the party's representative to the litigation must attend the settlement conference, and a representative with unrestricted settlement authority must appear on behalf of corporations and other business entities," he said.

In cases involving insurance, the judge said, a representative with unrestricted settlement authority must appear on behalf of the insurance company.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recently appointed Manibusan to serve as a settlement judge in Saito's lawsuit against UMDA.

Manglona issued the order after Saito and UMDA, through their counsels, agreed to hold a conference to settle their dispute.

Saito and UMDA, through their respective counsels Mark A. Scoggins and Robert T. Torres, had also asked the court to appoint Manibusan to be the mediator.

Saito sued UMDA to compel the company to arbitrate their disputes. He alleged that UMDA terminated his employment without cause on Dec. 7, 2009. Saito claimed that UMDA's total outstanding liability to him under the terms of his renewed contract is at least $975,000.

In February 2011, the federal court granted UMDA's motion to dismiss Saito's lawsuit. The court agreed with UMDA counsel Torres that Saito does not adequately allege a breach of contract because he did not adequately allege the existence of any contract to be breached.

Saito then filed an amended complaint. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Thursday Street Market relocates to Fishing Base

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Garapan Street Market on Thursdays will be temporarily moving to the Garapan Fishing Base starting this week until further notice, according to Melvin Faisao, secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The relocation was due to the ongoing construction at the event's main site at Paseo de Marianas after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. uncovered that the area's sewer line collapsed last week. Necessary work is expected to last from three to four weeks.

Faisao said that DCCA immediately notified its 43 Thursday Market vendors as soon as he received the information from CUC.

According to Faisao, the local government generates approximately $1,500 per week from the Street Market. He hopes that the public and tourists will continue to patronize the event as it temporarily relocates to new place.

As soon as the CUC construction is completed, Faisao said that vendors will be immediately notified of their return to the main site.

CUC deputy executive director Alan Fletcher said Sunday that the collapsed pipe is located between two manholes on Coral Tree Avenue fronting the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Hyatt Regency Saipan—the same location as the Thursday Street Market.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC is currently operating a portable trash pump to divert wastewater from the blocked line. However, this is not a sustainable or desirable solution, especially located in Saipan's busy tourist areas.

To repair this collapse, Fletcher said that CUC has engaged the services of GPPC, Inc. to install new pipes. The project is expected to cost $118,500.

Two indicted for allegedly lying in passport application for child

A woman and her brother-in-law were indicted on Monday in federal court for allegedly lying in an application for a U.S. passport for her son when she passed off her brother-in-law as the father of her son.

The indictment charged Aifang Ye and her brother-in-law, Zhenyan Cheng, both Chinese nationals, with conspiracy to make a false statement in a passport application. In addition, Cheng was charged with false statement in application for a U.S. passport.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arrested Cheng on Thursday.

Cheng allegedly posed as the father of his brother's child.

Cheng's brother, Xigao Cheng, departed the CNMI for China on Sept. 16, 2011, and has not returned to the Commonwealth since then, according to ICE special agent Ryan K. Faulkner in an affidavit filed in court.

According to the indictment, some time prior and until March 29, 2012, Ye and Cheng conspired to make a false statement in an application for a U.S. passport for the minor child of Ye.

Faulkner stated that they discovered the lie after conducting a surveillance on a car that dropped Cheng, Ye, and her infant child at the Saipan Passport Office on March 29, 2012. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

HEALTH WALK
APRIL 14, 2012
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30am to 8:00am – 13 Fisherman Pavilion
Tinian: 6:00am to 8:00am – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:00am to 8:00am – Joaquin M. Ogo Softball Field
– Dr. Rita Hocog Inos RJSHS
Original was designed in 2009 by Winona Blanco-Maratita
12th Grade Tinian High School

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D'ELEGANCE CAFE
CAR PARK
GOLD
Located behind Duty Free and Star Sands Plaza

DELAY

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deadline—but they have yet to receive a biometrics appointment for their foreign workers.

Of the estimated 35 foreign workers at their retail and wholesale businesses, he said that not a single one has received a CW permit.

"For the retail store, we received information about biometrics schedule only last week. Our employees who have medical emergencies are having a hard time because of travel requirements. These are creating uncertainty. It's hard to plan for new investments. Even if a business has money, if they know the processing of workers' permits will take long, then they will not invest yet. We are a legitimate business but we don't know if our workers will get their permits," Xie added.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services reported that as of March 20, there have been 417 CW petitions approved covering 591 beneficiaries. The 591 with CW permits is only 5 percent of the 11,677 workers petitioned for CW status.

Uncertainty

"It's a concern for any human resource director," Triple J Saipan Inc. human resources director Frank Ada said.

With CW petitions still being processed, businesses and their foreign workers remain locked in uncertainty. USCIS earlier imposed a Jan. 31 deadline on itself to complete the processing of CW petitions filed on or before Nov. 28.

Ada said there were instances wherein Triple J was asked by USCIS to provide information about the company's business gross revenue and tax ID number, for example, to support a petition for a certain foreign worker. However, the petition submitted for other employees in the same category were approved without being asked to provide BGR and tax ID number.

In some cases, the additional information asked were "petty," Ada said.

For example, in one of the petitions filed on behalf of a foreign worker, Triple J was asked whether it's a member of any non-profit organization. Triple J is a member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, among other groups.

"We were thinking, what if we're not a member of any group such as the Chamber of Commerce, would our petition be rejected? But Triple J is a legitimate business. Should membership in a non-profit group be a factor in deciding whether to approve or not a CW petition?" Ada asked.

However, regardless of the type of information requested by USCIS, Ada said Triple J has been providing all the information needed.

"What can we do but comply? We don't want to delay the process any longer," Ada added.

Of the 65 CW petitions they've submitted to USCIS for 78 foreign workers, more than half have yet to be approved, Ada said.

"Fortunately, the applications were submitted before Nov. 28 so they could continue to work while the petitions are being processed. But we are also trying to get new workers from abroad, after we looked and did not get available workers here. But the turnaround time is not as quick as we would like," he said.

He said the prolonged processing of CW petitions could be part of "growing pains" of a new transitional program.

Double whammy

Daisy Cruz, a 43-year-old sales accounting clerk, said she applied for a $360 advance parole because her CW petition has yet to be adjudicated months after the application was filed. She had planned a vacation in the Philippines to attend her daughter's March 24 high school graduation.

"At the time, I was already worried that I won't be able to go home because I didn't have my CW permit yet. That's why I applied for advance parole. But only a day after my advance parole arrived on April 3, I also got my CW permit. But they both arrived late for me to attend my daughter's graduation," she said.

Besides missing her lone child's graduation, Cruz also spent an extra $360 for the advance parole. Because she now has a CW permit, she needs to apply for a CW visa at the U.S. Embassy in Manila for $150.

"Of course it was disappointing that I just got my CW permit after I already spent $360 for an advance parole," said Cruz, who has been working on Saipan for three and a half years.

Despite all these, Cruz said she would still go home to see her family on April 17. She has already brought a $770 round-trip ticket, and now needs to apply for a CW visa at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. She wishes that her CW visa application gets approved so she could return to the CNMI to work.

Worried

Charles Cepeda, general manager of Pacific Trading Co. and a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said their company got approved for five of seven CW permits applied for despite similar information provided for all these applications.

Cepeda said the processing of CW petitions is taking longer than anticipated, and this is affecting business plans.

"Everywhere you go, the CW permit is an issue and it is impacting the economy. Businesses are not sure if their workers will get a CW permit. I also have employees who want to go on vacation but couldn't make a decision because of uncertainty regarding travel documents," he said.

Nancy Del Gallego, a cashier, said she has yet to receive a biometrics appointment as of last week.

"I'm a bit worried now. A lot of people I know already had their biometrics but not me," said Gallego, who has been working on Saipan for 14 years.

She added that all she wants is to be able to continue working on Saipan legally, and is not after any improved immigration status. "But if they give us improved status, then we should be thankful," she added.

Mel Biascan, who has been on Saipan for 20 years and now works as a waitress, said she also has yet to receive a biometrics appointment and this is also starting to worry her. "It's hard to plan not knowing whether you will have a CW permit or not," she said.

Gulick visit

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI, is looking forward to a session with USCIS to discuss the CW program implementation.

"The Chamber has initiated communication with USCIS to present a seminar…to address the ongoing CNMI CW-1 visa program's implementation, application process and problems to date. SCC will submit employer questions in advance, and there will be a helpful Q&A at that seminar," said Chamber president Douglas Brennan in a statement.

On April 20, the Chamber will be hosting a luncheon forum with USCIS regional director David Gulick, from 11:30am to 1pm at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

The Chamber said Gulick is expected to provide SCC members a status report on the ongoing CNMI CW-1 visa application process and address current concerns from CNMI employers.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), a former CNMI immigration director, said the current CW program "places all these businesses and employees at the mercy of USCIS."

"Obviously, it wasn't foreseen that the process will take this long. They required employers to submit by Nov. 28 but months later, they still don't know whether their application is approved or not. There should be an alternative process to do this," he said.

Alternative

Since last year, Sablan has asked for an alternative CW permit processing that is easier and more convenient for employers and employees. That's because the CNMI's situation is unique, he said.

"It's unacceptable to believe that with all the resources of the federal government at its disposal, it cannot give the attention needed to process all these applications. I question the failure of the federal government not to anticipate this. Three years after federalization, we are still in limbo," he added.

Uly Morales, a commercial cleaner who has yet to receive a biometrics appointment, said he held off his planned vacation in March because of a lack of a CW permit.

"I hope by May or July, I would have my CW permit so I can go on vacation. It's hard to go on vacation if you don't have your permit yet. That's worrying me," he added.

A May 2008 U.S. law placed CNMI immigration under federal control effective Nov. 28, 2009. The regulations to fully implement the federalization were published in September 2011, two months before the deadline for filing most transitional CW petitions on behalf of foreign workers still needed by CNMI businesses. The transition period ends in 2014.

17

From Page 1

low suit.

The main reason cited by many of these outgoing nurses is their desire to withdraw their retirement contributions, which can only happen if they separate from government service. The Commonwealth's pension program is on the verge of collapse and is currently projected to last only up to about three years if no solution is identified.

The many uncertainties at the hospital have also played a role in the en masse departure of nurses, including the delayed payroll, housing perks that have been on hold for five months now, the untimely release of personnel allotments, the lack of assurance and support from government, and most importantly the lack of medical tools and supplies to effectively carry out their duties.

Saipan Tribune learned that of the 17 who tendered their resignations, four are from the hospital's hemodialysis unit. Three nurses also quit their posts at the medical and surgical section. The obstetrics and gynaecology unit will be losing two nurses, while the intensive care unit will lose one.

Other hospital units that will be losing one nurse each are pediatrics, transitional living center, labor and delivery unit, neo-natal intensive care unit, emergency room, women's care clinic, and family care clinic.

Saipan Tribune obtained the names of the nurses who are leaving but decided not to publish them to protect their privacy.

CHC had 167 nursing staff when the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. took over the operations of the hospital in October 2011.

In an interview with CHC nursing director Leticia Reyes in late March, she admitted that many nurses have already verbalized their intention to resign.

Some nurses, meantime, told *Saipan Tribune* that they are still waiting for some positive developments at CHC and will make their decision by the end of their contracts in November. Most employment contracts of nurses at CHC will expire in November.

TAN HOLDINGS

From Page 1

rale sang the U.S. and CNMI national anthems.

Willie Tan, Dr. Tan Siu Lin's second son, said in his opening remarks that Tan Holdings has worked with various business partners, several government administrations, dedicated employees, and has received the support of the communities to which it belongs in its 40 years of existence.

"We will not be where we are today without the support of our business partners and friends in the community," said Willie Tan, adding that Tan Holdings continues to work with the community to build the economy, generate jobs, develop social and environmental initiatives for the CNMI.

Willie Tan assured Tan Holdings' continued commitment to help build the economy, generate jobs, develop and sustain social and environmental initiatives in the CNMI, which he called his "second home."

This commitment will be further established with the scheduled launching of Tan Holdings' latest venture, Saipan Air, which is expected to boost the island economy by increasing tourist arrivals, generating more revenue for local businesses, and creating jobs for the island residents.

"We may not be a big airline company but we have the best interest of the Commonwealth in our hearts when we decided to put up this business," added Willie Tan.

Jerry Tan, another of Dr. Tan Siu Lin's sons, emphasized that tourism is the "economic engine" of the islands, which is why Saipan Air "is something that we feel we must do."

"We have seen airlines come and go," said Jerry Tan. "We certainly hope that will not be the case with us. We're working very hard to make it successful."

Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said in an interview that no other company besides Tan Holdings would step up to the plate to address the issue of lack of air seats to the CNMI.

"That really shows that they are very committed to the region and the people here. It's a wonderful organization and thank God that Dr. Tan had the foresight 40 years ago to come out to this region and build what they have today. I wish them absolutely nothing but the best," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in his remarks, congratulated Tan Holdings for all its accomplishments and contributions to the community. "Despite our fair share of economic challenges, Tan Holdings continues to be a major player in our economy and an exemplary contributor to our community."

Fitial, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, the Senate, House of Representatives, and the Saipan Municipal Council all expressed accolades to Dr. Tan Siu Lin and the Tan Holdings in the form of commemorative resolutions and plaques of appreciation.

In turn, Dr. Tan Siu Lin led a series of donations that uphold his and his son Jerry Tan's cherished causes: education and sports. ***(See related story).***

"As we celebrate, we also want to have the opportunity to say thank you and give back to the CNMI and the people for being so supportive," said Jerry Tan in an interview after the program.

Although many businesses are closing down in the CNMI, Jerry Tan noted that he still believes in the Commonwealth and that the local economy can be turned around by having a stable air service in the islands, which will be made possible by Saipan Air.

"I remain cautiously optimistic that we will have a stronger economy and we will see more businesses open up," he added.

Yesterday's guests were treated to a sumptuous luncheon feast at the hotel's Barefoot Beach Bar immediately after the program.

PSS

From Page 1

trators and education officials.

Four public schools on Tinian and Rota received sports equipment totaling $8,000. Tinian Elementary School, Tinian Junior and Senior High School, Sinapalo Elementary School, and Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. & Sr. High School each got $2,000 worth of sports equipment.

NMTI founder and owner Anthony Pellegrino was presented with a $16,000 scholarship assistance that will assist 40 of the institute's students in their school fees and training. The scholars will be selected at a later date.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan said the scholarship donation to the trades institute will become an annual tradition to demonstrate the company's commitment to developing the local workforce.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada, along with secondary school principals, were presented with 5,000 pieces of laptop sleeves that will be given away to all junior and high school students in the CNMI. The donation is worth $100,000. According to Jerry Tan, the company decided to donate these laptop sleeves so that students will take care of the laptops given them by PSS.

PSS, using American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds, procured thousands of laptops for its middle and high school students starting last school year.

Both Ada and Sablan said they are grateful of all the donations received by public schools yesterday from Tan Holdings.

"It's really a great opportunity for PSS to receive this kind of support. On behalf of the 11,000 students at public schools, we express our sincere appreciation to Tan Holdings. I call this a wonderful opportunity because it's really enriching the lives of students," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Another donation was the "Baskets of Hope," which contained assorted food items worth $400 each. The Tan family, with the help of PSS, will donate the baskets of goodies to 400 indigent families in the community. The total cost of this donation is $16,000.

The presentation of donations was witnessed by key leaders in government, including Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Senate President Paul A. Manglona, and House Speaker Eli Cabrera.

PSS unveils state-of-the-art bus depot in Lower Base

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education and government officials gathered in Lower Base yesterday morning for the unveiling of the CNMI Public School System's state-of-the-art bus depot, considered the first-ever of its type in the Pacific region.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan and Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada led stakeholders and PSS partners in the ribbon-cutting ceremony that officially opened the 13,700-square-foot bus center that will house 19 buses and eight mini-vans for Saipan students.

Coinciding with yesterday's occasion was the receipt of five brand new mini-vans for the PSS special education program, funded by the Federal Transportation Administration.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Education and government officials including CNMI Delegate Gregorio Sablan, center, cut the ribbon of the newly built PSS bus facility in Lower Base yesterday morning. The new center will house 19 school buses and eight mini-vans for the special education program.

Sablan toured guests around the newly opened building, showing the highlights that include a motor pool with two mechanic pits, the procurement and supply warehouse, a dining hall, a conference room, offices, and storage for tools and equipment, among others. The facility also has an oil containment system, carbon-fitted insulation, and energy-efficient LED lighting.

Sablan said the construction started in May 2011 and was completed this year to the tune of $1.7 million in ARRA funds and a portion of regular grants received by PSS from the FTA.

Sablan said this is the first time for PSS to build this kind of project for many years.

Sablan said the project's completion would ensure the safety of employees of the Pupil Transportation Department as well as PSS' properties and equipment such as its vehicles. Flooding in the area, she said, was among the major concerns that were addressed with the construction of a well-designed drainage system.

According to Greg Castro, manager of SSFM International that designed the project, the new facility has a covered and secured motor pool that features a tools and parts room and is spacious enough to accommodates the needs of procurement and supply and school bus administration and parking for all buses and vehicles.

He revealed that the company had a number of challenges during the pre-design work such as how to control the drainage discharge; some issues on soil structure; as well as wastewater discharges.

The project's contractor is Tropex Garden; project manager is RR Group LLC.

Among the guests in yesterday's event included CNMI Delegate Gregorio Sablan and the governor's senior policy adviser, Dr. John Joyner, who spoke on behalf of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. Members of both the Senate and the House of Representatives were also present.

Man who tried to stab wife gets 6 months in prison

A man who was charged with beating up his wife, trying to stab her with a kitchen knife, and slapping her daughter pleaded guilty and was given a six-month prison term.

Murphy Martin, 33, pleaded guilty last Thursday to attempted aggravated assault and battery as part of a plea agreement. The remaining charges were dropped.

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos sentenced Martin to four years in prison, all suspended except for six months, with credit for the 19 days he has already spent in jail. He will start serving his sentence on May 3, 2012.

Once he gets out, Martin will be placed on probation for five years. He was also required to perform 100 hours of community service, and pay a $250 fine, $100 court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

Martin was also ordered to complete anger management counseling, a parenting class, and any other counseling recommended by the Office of Adult Probation or treatment provider.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Martin with assault with a dangerous weapon, attempted aggravated assault and battery, three counts of assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Martin repeatedly hit his wife in the presence of a child on Sept. 11, 2011 on Saipan.

The police said that Martin slapped his wife, punched her on the head, and tried to stab her with two kitchen knives but was only prevented from doing so by a neighbor who witnessed him beating his wife. The neighbor managed to wrestle the knives away. Martin also allegedly slapped the victim's daughter, a minor. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Congressional Art Competition

Office of
Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

2012 Congressional Art Competition - Northern Mariana Islands

Official Guidelines

The competition is open to students grades 9 through 12 in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Artwork submitted must meet the following requirements in order to fit in the exhibit space at the U.S. Capitol:

- Artwork must be two dimensional.
- Dimensions cannot exceed 28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, inclusive of the frame.
- Weight cannot exceed 15 lbs.
- Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. Copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo (not the student's own), painting, graphic, advertisement, or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted. Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).
- Artwork will hang in the Capitol for the entire year of the exhibition and cannot be returned earlier. Students should, therefore, submit work they will not need for other purposes during that time period.

- Accepted media are:
  - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
  - Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal ink, markers
  - Collage: must be two dimensional
  - Paints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
  - Mixed media: use of more than two media, such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc
  - Computer-generated art
  - Photography

Artwork must be submitted no later than
Friday, April 13, 2012

Entries can be hand-delivered or mailed to the congressional offices on Rota and Tinian, which are open Monday to Friday, from 8:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Saipan, which is also open on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Rota Office
Songsong Village
P.O. Box 1361
Rota, MP 96951
Phone: (670) 532-2647

Tinian Office
San Jose
General Delivery
Tinian, MP 96952
Phone: (670) 433-2647

Saipan Office
JCT II Building, Susupe
P.O. Box 504879
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 323-2647/8

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayers expense.

Fitial orders AG, DPL to look into Coral Ocean Point lease

»'I believe in magic but I don't believe in them'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has ordered the Department of Public Lands and the Office of the Attorney General to look into Suwaso Corp.'s existing public land lease for Coral Ocean Point Resort Club, now that the April 7 deadline had passed without a business plan required under the approved lease extension.

"I believe in magic but I don't believe in them," Fitial told reporters yesterday at the Tan Holdings' 40th anniversary celebration, when asked whether he believes Suwaso Corp.'s decision to close its hotel operations starting on May 13 was really to give way to a $20-million renovation.

Fitial said even from the start, he had wanted a request for proposal to be put out for the Coral Ocean Point property.

"I have always wanted the Coral Ocean Point [lease] extension to be RFP'd, in other words. Because the previous or the current operator, they have neglected their obligations under the terms and conditions of their lease agreement because they let the place unmaintained and going down to dilapidation stage. And that's because they don't have money and I know the reason why they don't have money but I'm not privy to disclose. But I really wanted the extension be RFP'd so the best operator should take over," the governor said.

The Legislature approved Suwaso's lease extension last year.

Prior to the legislative approval, Fitial had wanted lawmakers to hold off on making a decision until further review of the proposal was made. The governor's plea fell on deaf ears.

"There's no RFP done because it was extended, and it was extended rather improperly," Fitial said.

Suwaso's proposed lease extension, as recommended by DPL under then secretary Oscar M. Babauta, was approved by the Legislature. Fitial recently removed Babauta as DPL secretary.

Fitial said a part of the conditions for the lease extension was submission of a business plan.

"They were given 240 days to come up with a business plan. That was part of the conditions of the extension so the 240 days lapsed already…on April 7," he said.

When asked whether DPL or the government can still cancel the lease extension, Fitial said this is the reason why he asked DPL and OAG to look into the lease extension conditions and see whether they have been met.

"The existing agreement has terms and conditions so we have to look at the terms and conditions if they are satisfied…. Only as of yesterday [Monday], I asked the new acting [DPL] secretary to look into this matter. And I have also asked the attorney general to lend a hand, look at the legal aspect of the extension," Fitial said.

He said he is not sure whether Suwaso Corp. is current in its lease payments.

Attorney Vincent Torres, chairman of COP owner Suwaso Corp., announced Monday that Coral Ocean Point is shutting down its hotel and room operations beginning May 13, 2012, to give way to a $20-million renovation.

Some Capital Hill officials shared Fitial's concerns yesterday that Suwaso may not have the financial wherewithal to make a $20 million renovation, and such closure may become permanent.

Coral Ocean Point is located on a 735,023 square meter property at Agingan Point on Saipan.

JA program turns students into entrepreneurs

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five "company officials" of Marianas High School's Team Bendi, one of the participating teams in the Junior Achievement Program in the CNMI, said their experience motivated them to think of taking up a business course in college then starting their own business in the future.

The students—all juniors—served as guest speakers at yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan general membership meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Rotary sponsored and mentored members of Team Bendi so they could gain actual experience in running their own businesses through the JA program. "Bendi" means "sell" in Chamorro and "useful" in Japanese,

JA is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship, and finance literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. These programs help prepare young people for the real world by showing them how to generate wealth and effectively manage it, how to create jobs that make their communities more robust, and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Officials of Marianas High School's Team Bendi, one of the participating teams in the Junior Achievement Program, address the membership of the Rotary Club of Saipan during a meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday. In photo are Donovan Flores, vice president for marketing; Daphne Dela Cruz, VP for human resources; Antonio Cabrera, VP for public relations; Jessica Gamba, VP for finance; and Charles Bautista, VP for production.

The JA program in the CNMI slumbered for several years before it was revived in 2011 by the Public School System and the Commonwealth Development Authority, with the support of the Northern Marianas College.

Team Bendi, composed of six officials and 16 employees, sold "Be A Hero" wristbands and "Respect" thumb rings at the JA Trade Fair at the Garapan Street Market last March 29. The group used promotional stunts such as live mannequins to sell their products. Team Bendi sold 300 products during the trade fair, allowing them to reach their sales goal of $1,300.

Participating teams in the JA program learn about the value of contributing to their communities by supporting their own choice of a nonprofit group. For Team Bendi, they chose to donate their proceeds to the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.

Team Bendi is scheduled to do their "liquidation" during their 12th meeting today as the program nears its end.

"We worked as a team, shared ideas, and discussed what was best for the company," said Charles Bautista, vice president for production.

Bautista said his participation in the program "taught me that if you're going to start a business with people you don't know or are not comfortable with, you just have to give it your best shot and show them what you're capable of and what you have to offer."

"We learned that in business, nothing is free and that we have to account for everything," said Jessica Gamba, VP for finance who was responsible for keeping track of company records and payroll. Each Team Bendi employee receives $1 each per meeting while each officer receives $2 per meeting.

"By joining JA, I learned how to start your own company from scratch. Overall, I can say that my experience with JA was really fun," she said.

For Donovan Flores, VP for marketing, he never thought that as a student, he will be given the chance to experience what entrepreneurs do.

"Doing all that was fun and exciting and my experience in the JA program is like no other," said Flores, adding that he hopes to enhance his business skills in college.

The two other officers who attended yesterday's meeting were Daphne Dela Cruz, VP for human resources, and Antonio Cabrera, VP for public relations. All students expressed interest in joining the JA program again next year.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-001-12

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Trash Collection Services for a period of two years at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing trash collection services for the Airport as described in the scope of work. The bid package which includes the scope of work, draft agreement, and insurance requirements will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Wednesday, March 21, 2012. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Proposal for the Trash Collection Services at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport"*. One original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read.

The apparent lowest bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and insurance requirements. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive and responsible," their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 9:00 am, Wednesday, April 11, 2012, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director in writing at least 7 days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the bid or supply under the contract. This IFB does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

March 19, 2012
Date

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Special Meeting to be held on Thursday, April 12, 2012 beginning at 10:00am at MPLT Conference Room, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT - *none*

III CONSULTANT'S REPORTS - *none*

IV LEGAL COUNSEL – report and review (Executive Session)
1. NMHC RFP
2. Proposed initiative

V OLD BUSINESS
CUC – financial assistance request

VI COMMUNICATIONS - *none*

VII NEW BUSINESS

VIII MISCELLANEOUS
Investment options - private equity

IX ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB12-DEQ-063

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 24, 2012
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF EIGHT (8) COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, ***LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE,*** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2012 * TIME: 10:00 AM
NMHC IFB 2012- 007
"BUILDING MAINTENANCE OF NMHC'S HOUSING UNITS IN ROTA"

Proposal packets will be available on April 9, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager, at telephone numbers. (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Mr. Barrie C. Toves, Rota Field Office Representative, at (670) 532-9410.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 13, 2012, at the NMHC Field Office located in Sinapalo, Rota, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to visit the project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director of the NMHC, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 234-9021 no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

This project is paid for and funded 100% by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that is administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) under its Section 8 Multi-Family Program for the Island of Rota.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

'Fund will settle only if Jorgensen's clients offer realistic demands'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund and its board of trustees want to resolve the lawsuit filed by two unnamed retirees provided that their demands are realistic, according to the Fund and its board counsel, Braddock J. Huesman.

Huesman said the Fund and its board cannot enter into settlement negotiations with the unnamed retirees until they have made a realistic demand that addresses the Fund's needs.

"It is useless to agree to participate in a settlement procedure if the demand is a receivership or if the demand is a rehash of the previous demand, paying Mr. [Bruce] Jorgensen $400 an hour to participate in a process that he simultaneously claims violates his clients' due process rights," said Huesman in the Fund and its board's response to the federal court's mediation proposal.

Jorgensen, on behalf of two unnamed retirees, filed the lawsuit against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Fund over alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits.

Put simply, Huesman said, the party at fault is the CNMI government and the Fund must insist on that being the focus of any mediation.

At the end of a telephonic conference call on March 29, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood proposed a mediation or settlement discussion in the case.

On Thursday, Fitial and the CNMI government, through the Office of the Attorney General, notified the court that they are not interested in the mediation.

Gilbert Birnbrich, chief of the Office of the Attorney General's Civil Division, said in a statement that the government does not believe mediation is appropriate because the plaintiffs' claims have not merit.

In the Fund and its board's response to the mediation proposal, Huesman said the plaintiffs' suit places the Fund on the same "side" as its judgment debtor, the CNMI government.

Moreover, Huesman said, the CNMI government continues to demonstrate that it cannot or will not address the Fund's catastrophic funding situation.

Simultaneously, the lawyer said, the plaintiffs seek to place the Fund under a receivership.

"The Fund…submit[s] that receivership, federal or otherwise, is a wholly inappropriate remedy for the Fund's condition because the authority of a receiver is defined by the entity or entities in the receivership," Huesman said.

If the court orders the parties to settle, Huesman said that the Fund would object to any settlement judge that Jorgensen claims to have either personally contacted or one that he has specifically requested to act as a receiver.

Huesman said his clients, however, are open to any suggestions the court would offer.

Seven schools to vie for Parade of Books honors

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seven public and private elementary schools will be vying for the grand prize in this year's Parade of Books to be hosted by the Rotary Club of Saipan on Saturday, April 14 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

These schools and their respective book titles are Dandan Elementary School, *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein; Golden Harvest International School, *Pinocchio*; Kagman Elementary School, *Puss in Boots* by Charles Perrault; Koblerville Elementary School, *Corduroy* by Don Freeman; Sinapalo Elementary School, *Sam and the Lucky Money*; San Vicente Elementary School, *A Chair for my Mother* by Vera Williams; and Oleai Elementary School, *The Legend of the Blue Bonnet.*

Parade coordinator Reina Camacho said yesterday via email that they did not receive any feedback from other elementary schools on why they won't be participating on Saturday. This year marks the 8th year of the Rotary event, which aims to raise reading awareness at school and at home.

"Perhaps, it is simply that schools do not have the time, or do not have a dedicated teacher to take on the challenge and the potential rewards—monetary as well as public recognition/bragging rights," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

Still, Camacho said she is pleased with the participation of the seven schools for this year's event, which coincides with the National Library Week celebration.

A $1,000 cash prize awaits the winning school, which will be judged based on proximity to the 3 to 5-minute time frame, costume depiction, enthusiasm of participants, vocal clarity, and overall adherence to theme.

Other prizes include $750 for second place, $500 for third place, $300 for fourth place, $200 for fifth place, and $100 consolation prizes. The school that will be awarded Best in Spirit will receive 30 water park passes to Pacific Islands Club while the Best Director awardee will win a one-night stay, also at PIC.

During Rotary's general membership meeting yesterday, Camacho said all volunteers are requested to attend today's meeting at 5:30pm at the MHS Gymnasium.

She noted that parents, friends, and relatives of participating schools this year can preorder DVD copies of Saturday's performances for $10 each.

For more information, contact Camacho at reinacamacho@gmail.com or 664-8512.

MMAC Team Bodig to host fundraisers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team Bodig, one of the teams for the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer, has lined up two events in support as part of its efforts to raise more funds for the upcoming biggest annual cancer event.

"Thirsty Thursday" is slated for Thursday, April 12 at Naked Fish Bar & Grill on Beach Road in Garapan starting at 5pm.

A $10 entrance fee entitles one to a free drink and live entertainment by popular local artist Marvin Guerrero.

"All funds raised at this Thirsty Thursday event will go toward the Marianas March Against Cancer so we encourage the entire community to come out and support Team Bodig's efforts in the fight against cancer," said Catherine Attao-Toves, 2012 MMAC overall committee chair.

To purchase tickets for Thirsty Thursday, call Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero at 287-3655 or Bridgette M. Camacho at 287-6772.

On April 20, Team Bodig is scheduled to host a coin drive at the Microl Toyota traffic light intersection in San Jose at 6pm.

Attao-Toves urged the public driving by the area to donate whatever funds they can, which will also go toward MMAC.

"We applaud Team Bodig's untiring efforts in the battle against cancer," she added.

MMAC is a 12-hour overnight event that features teams under different categories (Pulan, Napu, Atdao, and Pution) competing for various prizes including most money raised, most laps, best baton, best tent, most luminaries sold, and most team spirit on April 27 to 28 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Jr. High School Field in Chalan Piao.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of MMAC, the largest annual signature fundraising event of Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led non-profit organization that advocates for cancer victims.

For more information about MMAC, call 285-1828, email attaoc@yahoo.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 • Fax. (670) 664-2547

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL GARAPAN STREET MARKET VENDORS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS WOULD LIKETO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE THURSDAY NIGHT GARAPAN STREET MARKET (GSM) VENDORS THAT THE NIGHTLY GARAPAN STREET MARKET ACTIVITY WILL TEMPORARILY RELOCATE FROM THE CORAL TREE AVENUE TO GARAPAN FISHING BASE STARTING THIS THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012.

THE PURPOSE OF THE RELOCATION IS TO ALLOW THE COMMONWELATH UTILITIES CORPORATION TO REPLACE THE EXISTING OLD SEWER LINE OF THE GARAPAN STREET MARKET (GSM) FUNCTION.

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICE AT 664-2587.

THANK YOU,

/S/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
SECRETARY, DCCA

Stricter labor compliance sought in Guam's construction industry

»US Labor initiative to focus on federally funded projects

HAGATNA, Guam—The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division has launched an enforcement initiative focused on Guam's construction industry to increase employer compliance and remind construction workers, including those hired under the H-2B temporary nonimmigrant worker program, of their rights under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts, and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

The initiative aims to promote sustained compliance, particularly among contractors and subcontractors working on federally funded construction projects in Guam, but also will include investigations of other construction projects. Wage and Hour Division investigators—many of whom speak Tagalog, Mandarin and other languages in addition to English—will be interviewing employees and conducting thorough reviews of employment practices, pay records and circumstances of joint employment to identify and remedy violations.

Common violations found at federally funded construction projects include misclassification of laborers and mechanics as exempt from the FLSA; a failure to pay employees for all hours worked, including for travel time and cleanup activities; a failure to pay required prevailing wages and fringe benefits (including overtime); and inadequate record-keeping of employees' work hours and wages.

Guam is experiencing an upsurge of federally funded construction projects in preparation for the relocation of U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan. This relocation will be one of the largest movements of military assets in decades and requires significant infrastructure developments, including new construction and improvements to roads and highways, bridges, operational training facilities, naval facilities and other base projects such as military family housing.

"This historic military realignment and development of Guam will be made possible through the labor of thousands of local construction workers," said Ruben Rosalez, acting administrator of the Wage and Hour Division's Western Region. "The division is committed to ensuring that these workers are paid their rightful wages and benefits in compliance with the law. The Wage and Hour Division is pursuing a number of strategies under this enforcement initiative to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used properly on federally funded construction projects, and to promote sustained compliance with the labor standards for which the division has enforcement responsibility in Guam."

When violations are found, the division will use all available enforcement tools—including litigation, civil money penalties, liquidated damages and debarment from future government contract opportunities—to recover workers' wages, ensure accountability among all responsible parties and deter future violations.

Investigators also are enlisting the cooperation of local partners—including the Guam Department of Labor and the Guam Contractors' Association—to assist the division in identifying and addressing local patterns of noncompliance. Additionally, the division is reaching out to workers, employers, industry associations, community organizations, consulates and other stakeholders to inform them of the initiative, provide compliance assistance and engage their participation in promoting industrywide accountability and compliance.

The FLSA requires that covered employees be paid at least the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, as well as one and one-half times their regular rates for every hour they work beyond 40 per week. The law also requires employers to maintain accurate records of employees' wages, hours and other conditions of employment, and prohibits employers from retaliating against employees who exercise their rights under the law.

The Davis-Bacon Act requires all contractors and subcontractors performing work on federal and certain federally funded projects to pay their laborers and mechanics proper prevailing wage rates and fringe benefits as determined by the secretary of labor. Additionally, the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act requires contractors and subcontractors to pay laborers and mechanics one and one-half times their basic rates for all hours worked over 40 in a week.

The H-2B visa program permits employers to temporarily hire nonimmigrants to perform nonagricultural labor or services in the United States. Unlike in the rest of the United States and its territories, where the granting of labor certifications and the enforcement of the H-2B visa program is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, the H-2B program is administered in Guam by the territory's governor under U.S. Department of Homeland Security regulations. Consequently, during this initiative, the Wage and Hour Division cannot enforce the H-2B regulations found in 20 Code of Federal Regulations 655 Subpart A; however, the division recognizes that H-2B workers are particularly vulnerable and will work closely with the Guam Department of Labor to ensure that employers comply with all laws, local and federal.

For more information about federal wage laws, call the Wage and Hour Division's toll-free helpline at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243) or its Guam Field Office in Hagatna at 671-473-9178. Information also is available at http://www.dol.gov/whd. ***(US Labor)***

CONTACT INFO

Wage and Hour Division
- Toll-free helpline: 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243)
- Guam Field Office: 671-473-9178
- Web: http://www.dol.gov/whd

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-014
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION MATERIALS
(Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Materials for the Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-014, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment and Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries with regards to this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **April 16, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-015

CALL CENTER SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Call Center Services for CUC Departments and Operating Centers located on Saipan, Tinian and Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **April 19, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-015, Call Center Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **April 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org; Janina Muna, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 11, 2000

Bill seeks to eliminate two positions in AGO

A Senate proposal to eliminate two positions at the Attorney General's Office will provide two additional lawyers to the Public Defender's Office that are necessary to handle increasing caseloads there, according to its proponent. Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes said the imbalance on the number of lawyers between the AGO and PDO must be corrected following complaints that the latter is short of staff to deal with growing number of people seeking free legal services. At present, the AGO employs over 30 lawyers to take care of both civil and criminal cases filed by the government, while PDO has five to defend people in courts who cannot afford private legal representation.

Lawyer says PL 11-105 unconstitutional

A law allowing the CNMI judiciary to take the interests on the trust entrusted to the court and deposited in the bank is unconstitutional as it violates federally-guaranteed rights, according to a lawyer suing the CNMI government to repeal the measure. James E. Hollman, in his capacity as guardian to Vo Minh Tan, one of the beneficiaries of the Hillblom Estate, has asked the U.S. District Court to declare Public Law 11-105 unconstitutional as he cited cases in the mainland supporting such a claim. In court papers submitted by his attorney, Bruce L. Jorgensen, the plaintiff criticized an earlier order issued by CNMI Superior Court Judge Pro-Tem Alex Castro that asked him to defend claim on the interests accrued from the Hillblom account.

Apr. 11, 2001

Resumption of 902 talks proposed

Senate leaders yesterday saw the need to resume discussions between the Commonwealth and Untied States governments under the Section 902 of the Covenant, as part of efforts to improve relationship with the Bush Administration. Senate President Paul A. Manglona said the Tenorio Administration should take aggressive steps to pursue the resumption of Section 902 talks with the federal government. A four-day discussion within the parameters of Section 902 in January 1999 ended with renewed animosity due to opposing stands on federalization of local labor and immigration systems.

Gaming body wants hand in floating casino talks

The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission has clamored for its involvement in the negotiations between government officials and Florida-based investors on the proposed establishment of a floating casino business in the CNMI. Acting TCGCC Chair William M. Cing said the commission should have been invited in the discussion between Commonwealth officials and representatives of SunCruz Casinos, the company that proposed to bring into the CNMI the floating gaming facility. "Since we are the only regulatory body in the Marianas for casino operations, it would make sense to invite us to participate in the discussions with SunCruz," said Mr. Cing in a media statement.

Apr. 11, 2002

DPT vaccine shortage drags down immunization rate

The immunization rate for kids three years old and below dropped from over 90-percent to a record-low of 57 percent due to a vaccine shortage experienced by the Department of Public Health. Specifically, there was a shortage in diptheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP) vaccines, brought about by the lack of supply at the national level. "The younger kids have low immunization rate, because this is a new phenomenon," said Public Health Secretary Dr. James U. Hofschneider.

Bills firming up CUC-CDA accord get House's nod

The House of Representatives yesterday signaled its determination to finally resolve the estimated $102-million debt burden of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., when it passed the two bills that fulfill the legislative requirement authorizing the settlement agreement between the Commonwealth Development Authority and the utility firm. On a unanimous vote of 18-0, the lower chamber tossed House Bills 13-106 and 13-107 to the Senate for passage and transmission to the Office of the Governor. Once Gov. Juan N. Babauta signs the two measures into law, the settlement agreement between the two autonomous agencies becomes effective, binding both parties to the terms and conditions of their accord.

Guam based Coast Guard cutter delivers aid to Micronesia

U.S. COAST GUARD

PACIFIC OCEAN—Petty Officer 3rd Class Patrick Kimmel, left, and Petty Officer 1st Class Clinton Amerman, crewmembers aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia*, offload supplies to the citizens of Nomwin Atoll, Federated States of Micronesia, on April 6, 2012. The crew of the *Sequoia*, homeported in Guam, delivered more than 25 pallets of supplies to the outer Caroline Islands in the Federated States of Micronesia during a joint operation law enforcement patrol in the Pacific Ocean.

PACIFIC OCEAN—The crew of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* is delivering humanitarian aid and supplies to the outer Caroline Islands in the Federated States of Micronesia as part of a joint effort by the Coast Guard, the Department of Defense, and civilian partners Monday.

More than 25 pallets consisting of textbooks, teaching supplies, toys, clothing, books, paint, generators, appliances, coolers, medical supplies, basic hygiene items and 55-gallon barrels are being delivered to the islands of Ulithi, Nomwin, and Murilo Atolls. These supplies will enable the reconstruction of clinics, schools, and provide the Pacific Islanders essential supplies they cannot receive on a regular basis.

The Ayuda Foundation and Oceania Community Health organization personnel in Guam helped gather and load the supplies onto the *Sequoia* on March 12, 2012. The *Sequoia* also loaded several tons of Project Handclasp supplies collected in a joint effort by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps.

The *Sequoia*'s first stop was Pohnpei where they conducted joint law enforcement operations to support bilateral agreements for fisheries enforcement throughout the Pacific Ocean. While in Pohnpei, they also provided boat tours for more than 300 students. After the *Sequoia*'s law enforcement operations, the crew visited the atolls in the Hall Islands to deliver supplies.

The *Sequoia* crew also visited the atolls of Chuuk State and the islands of Nomwin and Murilo. After off-loading supplies, Petty Officer 1st Class Jonathan Edwards, the cutter's health services technician, administered basic first aid and provided direction on the medical and hygiene products delivered to the islands. Edwards trained residents in treating common afflictions such as sunburn and heat exhaustion, in addition to conducting CPR demonstrations.

The crew also provided training on basic search and rescue concepts and equipment. Petty Officer 1st Class Geraldine Cabrera, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Jared Barnes, boatswains mates aboard the *Sequoia*, explained the use and importance of survival gear such as flares, signal mirrors, smoke producing devices and other common distress signals. The crew also distributed and explained the importance of filing float plans that contain critical information to assist the Coast Guard in the event of a missing boater.

"It was very rewarding to see the islanders truly understand the importance of search and rescue and the basic things they can do to help, like wear bright clothes and file a float plan with their island," said Cabrera.

The crew of the *Sequoia* will continue efforts of distributing supplies in the Caroline Islands in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The *Sequoia*, a 225-foot seagoing buoy tender homeported in Guam, is manned by a crew of 54. Its primary missions are maintaining aids to navigation, search and rescue, law enforcement, marine environmental protection and homeland security. The Coast Guard works in partnership with local communities across the Pacific to provide them with capabilities that will enable greater safety, security and economic success. ***(USCG)***

High court issues ruling in land dispute

On Thursday, April 5, 2012, the Supreme Court issued a unanimous opinion in *Manglona v. Baza*.

Joaquin Manglona originally leased a property in Garapan in 1984 and then agreed to buy it in 1997 from Theresita Baza and her family. The parties signed a sales contract that modified and incorporated parts of the original lease agreement. Most notably, the rental obligations under the lease agreement were replaced by the payment provisions of the sales contract, which required Manglona to pay in full by 2005. The lease agreement continued to operate and Manglona was to remain a tenant until the purchase price was fully paid.

By March 2008, Manglona still had not paid off the balance due so Baza terminated the lease agreement and sales contract. Manglona responded by filing a complaint asking the Superior Court to: (1) prevent Baza from foreclosing Manglona's interest in the property, (2) find that Manglona had fully satisfied all contract obligations, and (3) confer title to him. Baza filed a counterclaim for possession of the property and breach of contract.

In July 2009, the Superior Court found Manglona liable for breach of contract and awarded Baza $79,806.45 in back rent and returned possession of the property to Baza. The Superior Court also declined to grant Manglona equitable relief, which might have limited the harshness of the legal remedy and allowed him to retain possession of the property.

On appeal, the Supreme Court held that the trial court had miscalculated the amount of back rent owed but affirmed the remainder of the Superior Court's judgment. In affirming the decision of the trial court, the Supreme Court agreed that Baza gave sufficient notice of default under the lease agreement and sales contract. Therefore, Baza had a right to reclaim the property from Manglona after he subsequently failed to cure his breach within 30 days of receiving the default notice.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Manglona v. Baza*, 2012 MP 4, and will be found at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme_12.htm and http://www.justice.gov.mp/news_archive.aspx. ***(CNMI Judiciary)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Belinda Carla A. Norita, shown here with Ben Lisua. May God bless you with all His warmth and care! May your birthday bring loads of joy! Greetings come from your Agulto family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday greetings going out to Anthony Frankie Cabrera Celis! Wishing you many more birthdays to come and lots of love from your loving families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to the best dad in the world, Larry Lacy! We wish you many more years of love, good health and blessings! Thanks for being the best dad ever! From Cheryl, Dan, Che, and your grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday Nana! We love you and are grateful for everything you've done for us. Greetings come from your family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy birthday to my wonderful "husband," Rica Concepcion! May your day be filled with lots of blessings and love! Keep that beautiful smile because it lightens up the day! Love you always and forever, your wifey for lifey Lany.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to our "Superman," Roy Tiglao Jones! Hope you enjoy the rest of your day and may God bless you! From your friends and family at Mobil Susupe.

Division of Environmental Quality CNMI DEQ

PUBLIC NOTICE

DEQ RELEASES 2012 DRAFT WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), under the Office of the Governor, hereby notifies the public that the Draft 2012 Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report has been made available for public review and comment on DEQ's web page, www.deq.gov.mp.

Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the U.S. Clean Water Act (CWA) require that all states, including the CNMI, monitor and assess all waters within the estate and report the results to the public, USEPA, and the U.S. Congress, public review is required and DEQ must address comments received by the public.

DEQ invites the public to review and comment on the 2012 Integrated Report, by submitting written comments in person to the DEQ office at the Gualo Rai Center on Middle Road (across from the Subway restaurant), by mail, or by e-mail to waterqualityreport@deq.gov.mp. E-mails contain the subject line "2012 IR Comments" or similar. All comments must be received by DEQ no later than April 18, 2012, in order for the comments to be considered by DEQ in preparation of the final Integrated Report. Mailed comments should be addressed to Mr. Frank Rabauliman, Director, Division of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Strip-search ruling is baffling

In a shocking abdication of its responsibility to uphold Americans' constitutional freedoms, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that people suspected of minor offenses, such as rolling through a stop light, can be stripped and have their body cavities searched by jail guards.

Writing for the slim 5-4 majority, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy said the court should not second-guess prison officials.

But that is exactly why there is a court—to second-guess officials when they ignore constitutional rights and freedoms.

In this case, the court threw away the individual's basic right not to be punished before being adjudicated.

The court's opinion is rooted in utter paranoia, the worst of all influences on public policy. Kennedy said that "people detained for minor offenses can turn out to be the most devious and dangerous criminals."

He went so far as to note that the 1995 Oklahoma City bomber, Timothy McVeigh, was arrested on a traffic violation, and that one of the Sept. 11 terrorists was "ticketed for speeding just two days" before hijacking Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania.

It is baffling to consider that the U.S. Supreme Court, the esteemed arbiter of Americans' rights and freedoms, could possibly think that cavity searches might have saved the Oklahoma City and Flight 93 victims.

The plaintiff in the strip-searches complaint, Bordentown resident Albert Florence, was no suspected terrorist. He was a passenger in a car being driven by his wife in March 2005 when a New Jersey state trooper pulled them over on Route 295 in southern Burlington County.

The trooper looked up Florence on his computer and found an outstanding warrant for an unpaid traffic fine. Florence had paid that fine two years prior, and produced a document proving it, but nontheless he was taken to the Burlington County jail, where corrections officers strip-searched him.

Florence was then transported to the Essex County jail, where guards once again made him strip, squat, cough, and move his genitals. Florence spent six days in jail before the police realized the clerical error.

But Florence isn't the only person to have suffered this humiliating assault on his dignity. Others across the nation have been strip-searched for violating a leash law, or driving a car with a noisy muffler, or failing to pay child support, or riding a bicycle with an inaudible bell, noted Justice Stephen G. Breyer in his dissenting opinion.

Breyer correctly pointed out that the Fourth Amendment right against illegal search and seizure includes strip searches of people arrested for minor offenses not involving drugs or violence, unless jailers suspect them of carrying contraband. Breyer also noted that drugs or weapons were found in only one of 64,000 strip searches of nonviolent offenders.

That should have, but didn't, move Kennedy, who chillingly wrote that "every detainee who will be admitted to the general population may be required to undergo a close visual inspection, while undressed."

The court offered no guidance on this complex issue, but the obvious solution is to keep all those suspected of minor offenses separate from the general population, and hope jailers use common sense and decency in dealing with errant bicyclists, dog walkers and drivers.

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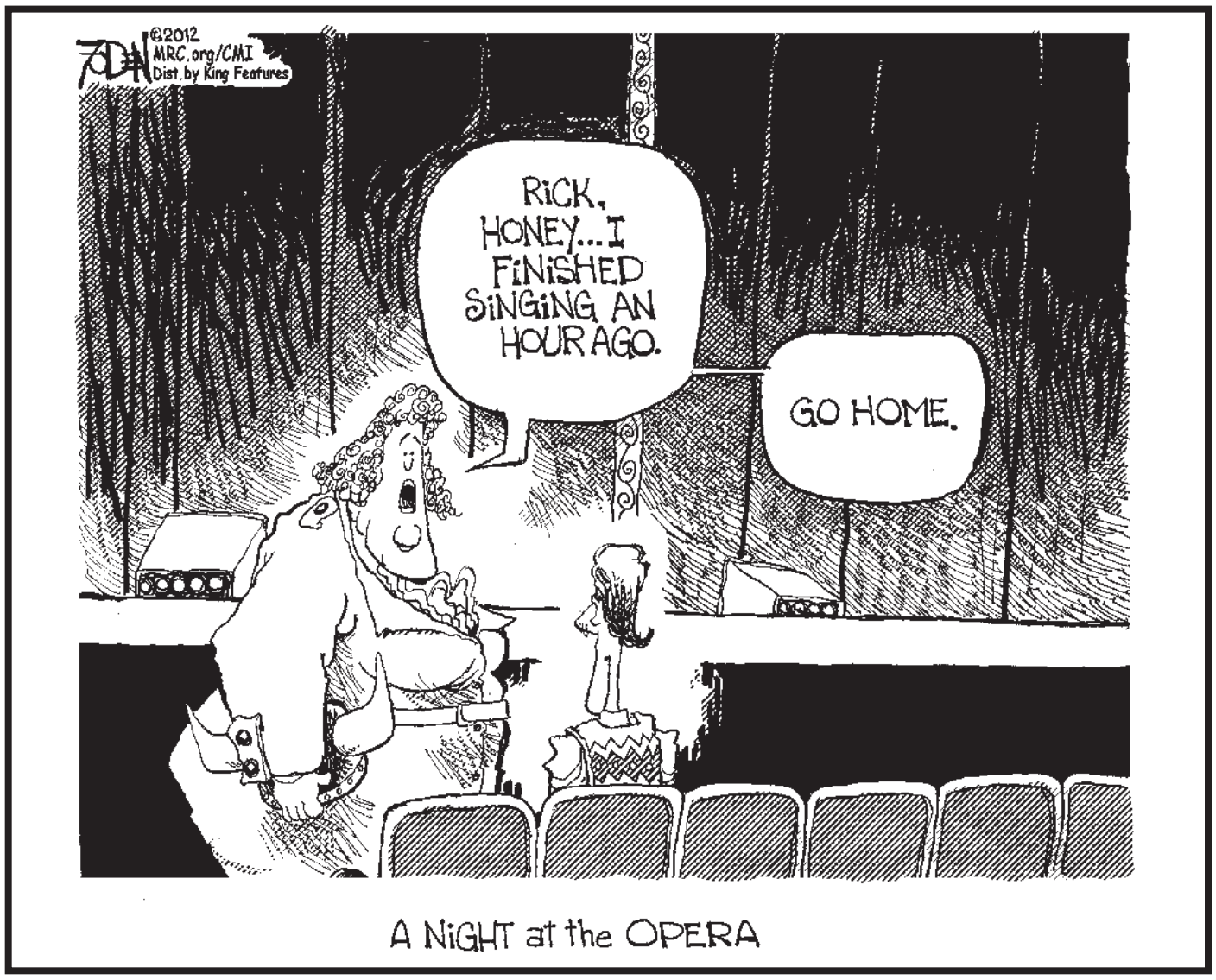


Time for a presidential campaign experiment

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times*. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

We got our first real glimpse this week of how President Obama and his now-almost-certain Republican rival, Mitt Romney, intend to wage their campaigns in the lead-up to the general election.

In a speech Tuesday, Obama painted Romney as an out-of-touch patrician who doesn't care much about the troubles of hardworking people low on the income ladder. Romney soon fired back, painting Obama as an out-of-touch liberal who doesn't care much about the struggles of honest businessmen who want to create jobs.

Obama accused Romney and his party of pursuing "social Darwinism," of scheming to protect unscrupulous lenders from regulation. Romney accused Obama of "vilifying success" and of prolonging the recession with "an anti-business, anti-investment, anti-jobs agenda."

Romney blamed Obama for high gas prices. Obama accused Romney of being in the pocket of "Big Oil."

Obama accused Romney of plotting "to end Medicare as we know it." Romney accused Obama of "taking steps that would end Medicare as we know it."

So much for a bracing competition of ideas.

Both candidates clearly believe that the Republican primary campaign is over, and that the way to win in November is to go negative—early and often.

Until this week, Romney had to focus much of his attention on his flagging rivals for the nomination. No longer. Now, Romney wants to talk only about Obama. And Obama clearly intends to give as good as he gets.

Romney, not surprisingly, would like to make the election a referendum on Obama's performance during his first four years. He'll try to stay focused on the sluggish economic recovery, the swollen deficit and a healthcare law that few voters love.

The Obama campaign wants the election focused on the stark choice between two parties rather than on the record of the last four years. And that's why the president is jumping in early to try to define Romney as ultra-conservative in the eyes of independent and undecided voters before Romney can shake off the right-wing rigors of the primary campaign and redefine himself as a moderate.

The president's strategy is to tie Romney to some of the nation's most unpopular Republican politicians: the tea party conservatives in the House of Representatives and their draconian budget, "a budget so far to the right it makes the Contract with America look like the New Deal."

Romney did endorse the House GOP spending plan. "He even called it 'marvelous,' which is a word you don't often hear when it comes to describing a budget," Obama said.

But that endorsement, in Obama's telling, meant that Romney also supported a parade of horrible consequences: less money for the FBI to fight crime, flight cancellations because of cuts in air traffic control, and no more Medicaid for middle-class children with Down's syndrome.

What was depressing about the two men's speeches this week was not only their hyperbolic negativity, but also how empty they were of ideas for solving the nation's problems. Both men were passionate, but mostly about the mortal dangers of electing the other guy.

These were generic, partisan speeches designed to do one thing: energize each party's base. Obama cast himself as the defender of the social safety net against predatory plutocrats; Romney would have us believe he's the last line of defense against socialists determined to destroy free enterprise.

That suggests that we are heading toward a campaign that will take us right back to 2004, when then-President George W. Bush, his popularity sagging because of the war in Iraq, held off a challenge from Democrat John F. Kerry.

It was a campaign in which each party spent most of its energy trying to propel its bitterest partisans to the polls, and not much time trying to build a broader coalition that might span the center. The result in 2004 was a narrow reelection for Bush, but not much of a mandate for anything he wanted to do in his second term, as he quickly discovered in 2005, when he tried to reform Social Security and failed.

There is an alternative, though, and Obama and Romney both still have six months to try it: They could step out of their comfort zones and address issues that don't fit so neatly into partisan talking points.

Obama could talk, for example, about how he might push his own party to get more serious about deficit reduction, including cuts in the growth of spending on Social Security and Medicare. Romney could explain which domestic programs he would cancel and which ones he would save and which tax breaks he would eliminate as part of tax reform. Rather than simply attacking Obamacare, he could propose a fleshed-out alternative.

It's a risky course for either one, because addressing those tough issues is unlikely to draw cheers from the party faithful. But it would give the next president—whoever he turns out to be—a head start toward actually getting something done.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Rating government performance

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

A young local scholar asked via email if there's a watchdog group guarding against corruption and accountability in local government. Yes, there's the constitutionally established Office of the Public Auditor. It does internal audits on any and all alleged misappropriation of public funds. It has done a superb job but its role has been dwarfed by heavy workload from citizens who have sought scrutiny of various offices and actions of public officials.

He related that the Center for Public Integrity recently released a report of the 10 most corrupt states in the country. It uses a 14-point system, including Overall Grade, public access to information, legislative accountability; political financing; and ethics enforcement agencies.

The State of Georgia has the worst levels of corruption risk and lack of accountability of any state in the country. Its biggest problem is the absence of a strong enforcement agency. While it has provisions to prevent certain kinds of corruption in campaign finance and lobbying, the state is full of unaddressed loopholes and lax enforcement. "About 2,000 Georgia officials, including one in five sitting legislators, have failed to pay penalties for filing their disclosures late, or not at all.

"Surprisingly, most of the states that received high marks have big governments with long histories of corruption and political machinery. Connecticut and California fit this description. New Jersey, where it seems former and current officials are indicted every year on ethics charges, received the highest grade in the country.

"Despite its colorful political past and present, New Jersey received a perfect score in areas such as lobbying disclosure and internal auditing. According to the report, the reason states with historical problems with corruption now have high accountability scores is precisely because of their former offenses. Those past problems led to strict enforcement measures that have kept politicians honest and information readily available," according to a report of the Center for Public Integrity. Now, how do you rate both the executive and legislative branches of the local government? Is the deepening economic disaster under Republican charge its lasting legacy?

■■■

MVA study merits review

There are valid and legitimate concerns raised in the recent study on tourism prepared by a private firm. A legislator related in an interview that there's no "new material" nor were there input from the community. It was explained that the latter would subsequently be undertaken.

I recall studies during the old TTG days that prompted an Interior official to declare, "The nice thing about studies is that they perpetuate more studies." An interesting point to take into consideration. But shouldn't this study be a component of an overall socio-economic plan? Ooops! Sorry, I forgot there's no such creature around to tinker with. And so the NMI dances every which way imaginable as erratic current throws it in helter-skelter fashion.

For nearly 50 years, tourism has never formally allowed the assimilation of our cultural traditions into the most appropriate industry. Dances and music have displayed the essence of Polynesia and hardly about these isles and its people. We also have veered off from a market where our children could be taught their indigenous music and dances so in turn they learn what's theirs and still make some money for incidental needs. This aspect only requires studying how the Polynesian Cultural Center in Honolulu has included students from all over the Pacific to do nightly performances for visitors.

The annual Festival of Arts and cultural events in our schools are good places to scout for local talents. MVA, in concert with local talents, could converge and help improve music and dance performances of the islands for hire at the various hotels here. There are two groups: Chamorro and Carolinian. Both could benefit from the help of a choreographer to pin down local arts for the glamour industry. Interesting how we've moved from Carolinian chants and stick dances to Awaodori dances. Is this a cultural dance of some sort?

Finally, the study should be a component of a larger plan that maps out guidelines for developmental purposes. Like signs along the road, it shows direction and unless we have a fully charted map, most everything we undertake is ad hoc (Plan By) rather than the more thoughtful process that permits key players to (Plan For) for the future. Just food for thought to ensure that we don't perpetuate the current confused and disoriented state of affairs.

■■■

Attracting investments

As I peep around the country to figure out why investments gravitate to places like Virginia, Texas, and Tennessee, among other states, all three share three things in common: low taxes, low regulations, and the right to work for all able-bodied applicants.

Have we priced ourselves out? Or just how well versed is the CNMI of its taxes and other relevant policies that have scared investors from making these isles their permanent home? Would there ever be a resurgence in investments, replicating the '80s and '90s or is this basically history too?

For one thing, Japan no longer has the "reconstruction fund" earmarked to rebuild the country after the war. It is also beset with another set of reconstruction after the heavy earthquake, tsunami, and fatal leak of its nuclear power plants in Fukushima and other areas in March last year.

As dizzying as the task may be in trying to reinvent the wheel on investment, the CNMI must try to understand current policies that are altogether regressive. It includes revising an arcane tax system, reduction in its utility costs, land policy, and other policies that stifle rather than spur investments. Upon critical review and repeal of stifling policies, key players must collectively prepare a realistic economic framework to use as guideline or road map. If we don't do our homework, wealth and jobs creation would be gone once more.

■■■

'Nai mababa i Tinian Dynasty*, sumaunau i tiuhu gi selebrasion i mas modetnu na* hotel *giya* Marianas. *Mamaisen hafa na'aña i hotel, masañgane na* "Tinian Dynasty". *Ilegña, "Debi u matulaika ya u mafana'an 'Dalai 'ste'." Ai na grasia guihe na haane. Magahet na i lobby na patte i mas dañkulu gi todu hotel guine giya Pasifiku.*

Americans' expanding waistlines: No one-size-fits-all approach

By RICHARD CARMONA
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Richard Carmona was surgeon general of the United States from 2002 to 2006.

The first lady is getting kids to move; Rachael Ray is bringing more fruits, vegetables and whole grains to school cafeterias; and, the NFL is asking kids to spend an hour each day doing what they do best—playing.

All across America, campaigns to combat obesity with more exercise and smarter eating habits are targeting our nation's young people. But, while children's weight problems threaten our nation's future, obesity is actually a serious problem among Americans ages 45 to 64. How should our nation help adults control their weight and avert the serious consequences of obesity?

The challenge of obesity is far more complex than most people understand. That is why recent research has learned that, together with diet, exercise and lifestyle changes, drug therapies may help disciplined and motivated patients lose significant weight and possibly keep it off. Of course, diet and exercise are essential. But drug therapies can be a supplement, not a substitute, for healthier habits.

But will new obesity drugs be approved? And if so, when? The FDA must authorize any medical products sold in the United States, and the FDA has been extremely cautious about approving obesity drugs in order to assure the public's safety.

Make no mistake: obesity is America's most urgent health crisis. More than half of adult Americans are overweight, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that one-third are obese. Obesity puts people at risk of health problems, including heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, liver and gallbladder disease, and cancers of the breast, colon, esophagus, kidney, pancreas, thyroid, ovary, cervix and prostate.

Moreover, obesity threatens the nation's fiscal as well as physical fitness. The CDC estimates that medical costs associated with obesity amount to about $150 billion a year. For an obese individual, the lifetime medical costs resulting from weight problems are around $10,000 higher than among the non-obese. But, according to a study conducted by Stanford University and the RAND Corp., even a modest 5percent to 10 percent reduction in body weight can save someone between $2,200 and $5,500 in lifetime medical costs.

While obesity is expanding Americans' waistlines, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to the problem. There is a critical need for a full range of remedies to help prevent overweight adults from becoming morbidly obese and developing associated health conditions which are difficult and costly to treat.

Even with the best intentions to eat smarter and workout more, these middle-age people have a hard time losing weight and keeping it off. In fact, American Psychologist's 2007 study, "Medicare's Search for Effective Obesity: Diets Are Not the Answer," reported "one-third to two-thirds of dieters regain more weight than they lose on their diets." As other articles in medical journals have reported, the problem isn't only a lack of willpower among mature adults but rather an inherent tendency in the human body to try to regain the pounds that are lost.

Nationally, the increased disease and economic burden secondary to obesity cry out for other treatment options to include pharmacologic therapy for appropriately selected patients. Encouraging pharmacologic research for obesity coupled with accelerated drug development and translation to market are in the best interest of our nation.

Letters to the Editor

What about Fund members who have not retired yet?

Everyone on Capital Hill is discussing and arguing how to save the Retirement Fund for the retirees but what about the non-retirees? What about those who have not retired yet? We want to know what is going on with our contributions. Based on the news, a retired member sued the funds to get his disability benefits and it was in that lawsuit that they found out that he has been contributing to Class II, that the court awarded him Class II benefit. Now some of us are wondering if we are really Class I or Class II. Not only that, when they did the calculation, no explanation was given to prove what class we are in. They only showed how much we contributed every payday, but not what percent of our checks has been taken out.

The other scary part is no one is telling us what is really going on. I mean they only say the Fund is dying. Okay, when you say dying, what do you mean by this? Dying, because you're using the non-retirees contributions to pay the retirees, or dying because you're running out of money to pay the retirees?

A task force is being formed to save the Fund. The only question is, how many of those task force members are non-retired? Based on what I've heard, they are all retired members. I mean Class II. Majority of those not retired yet are Class I members.

Only one lawmaker is addressing the Class I members' concerns and that is Eli Cabrera. Do you know that Class I members too want to form their own task force? Because majority of Class I members are very worried about what's going on with their contribution. And they want to know if their money is still being saved or being spent little by little and they don't know.

Our leaders are so concerned about the retirees that they are not concerned about those whose hours have been cut and whose lives are now worse than those retirees who get their full paychecks.

Believe me, those retirees are better off looking for a job than waiting for miracles, because if you calculate their contributions and what they are receiving now, a lot of them have used up their contributions already. And if the time is up, the court will tell you to pay. If I'm wrong, tell us so that we can have hope in trusting you to save our living investment.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

Show us the numbers

I read the narrative of CUC's fiscal year 2013 budget. Is the actual budget document on their website so we could see the details? Otherwise, a simplified columnar format listing the "incomes" and another listing the "outcomes" would be practical enough for those interested in CUC's ongoing status. Let the stakeholders read the numbers; that is all to it. Numbers don't lie and they are by the way universal language without a doubt.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°

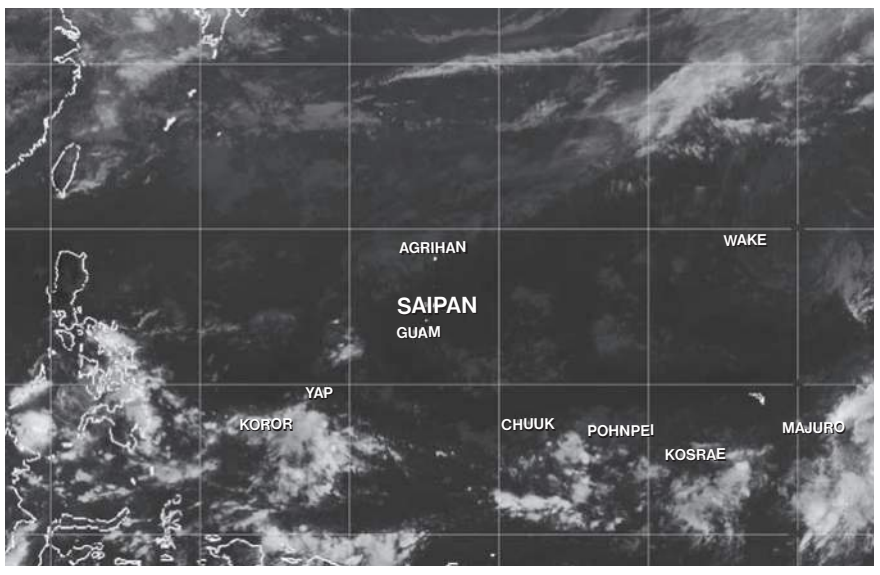
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲68	▼61
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼48
Hong Kong	Showers	▲77	▼70
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼70
London	Showers	▲57	▼42
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼46
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼67
New York	Showers	▲61	▼40
Osaka	Rain	▲63	▼52
Paris	Showers	▲57	▼42
Pusan	Showers	▲67	▼48
Rome	Rain	▲66	▼50
Salem	Showers	▲65	▼46
San Francisco	Rain	▲57	▼52
Seoul	Showers	▲64	▼39
Tokyo	Showers	▲65	▼56
Washington, DC	Windy	▲58	▼39

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N160E to end near 17N140E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 4N130E through a weak circulation near 5N142E and continues eastward to end at another circulation southeast of Kosrae at 3N166E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Koror are within 125 miles of a line from 7N133E to 5N141E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae are south of a line from 7N150E to 7N157E to 4N167E. A surface trough just east of Majuro is producing numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms over Tarawa and Butaritari within 200 miles of a line from 1N171E to 9N180. A subtropical low centered east of Wake Island at 19N171E is causing scattered showers between 15N and 23N from 166E to 176E and a few embedded thunderstorms between 15N and 19N from 172E to 175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:29 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:04 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
11:04 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:31 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:12 PM	9:49 AM
Thursday		10:49 AM
Friday	12:07 AM	11:48 AM
Saturday	12:58 AM	12:45 PM
Sunday	1:43 AM	1:38 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Tan Holdings' 40th Anniversary

Photos by CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dr. Tan Siu Lin, third right, hands the ceremonial check worth $16,000 to Northern Marianas Trades Institute founder and president Anthony Pellegrino, second left.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, second left, hands the plaque of appreciation to Dr. Tan Siu Lin, founder of Tan Holdings, which celebrates its 40th anniversary of doing business in the Pacific this year. With Tan are sons Henry, Willie, and Jerry Tan.

Washington Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, third left, hands the congressional commendation honoring Dr. Tan Siu Lin who is joined by his wife and three sons.

Senate members led by Senate President Paul Manglona, left, present a commemorative resolution to Dr. Tan Siu Lin, who was on stage with his family.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is flanked by Dr. Tan Siu Lin and Tan's wife, Lam Pek Kim, upon arrival at the Saipan Grand Hotel lobby yesterday.

Public School System officials and government leaders of Tinian and Rota receive their sports equipment donated by Tan Holdings.

Dr. Tan Siu Lin, center, presents the "Baskets of Hope" donation worth $160,000 to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, House Speaker Eli Cabrera, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, and Senate President Paul Manglona.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera lead lawmakers in presenting a plaque commending Dr. Tan Siu Lin for his contributions to the CNMI.

Business

Facebook buying photo-share app Instagram for $1B

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook is spending $1 billion to buy the photo-sharing company Instagram in the social network's largest acquisition ever.

On the surface, that's a huge sum for a tiny startup that has a handful of employees and no way to make money.

But the lack of a business model rarely dampens excitement about hot tech upshots these days. As Facebook has shown, itself without ads or revenue in its early days, money goes where the users are.

Instagram lets people share photos they snap with their mobile devices. The app has filters that can make photos look as if they've been taken in the 1970s or on Polaroid cameras. Its users take photos of everything from their breakfast egg sandwiches to sunsets to the smiling faces of their girlfriends.

AP
Instagram is demonstrated on an iPhone Monday, April 9, 2012, in New York. Facebook is spending $1 billion to buy the photo-sharing company Instagram in the social network's largest acquisition ever.

In a little more than a year, Instagram attracted a loyal and loving user base of more than 30 million people. Apple picked it as the iPhone App of the Year in 2011.

Instagram's fans, brand recognition and its potential are difficult to put a price tag on. Yet Facebook has—and can afford it. The company is preparing for an initial public offering of stock that could value the company at as much as $100 billion in a few weeks. What's $1 billion? A drop in the bucket, really.

"Facebook after this IPO is going to be in a position to be predatory. They can make sure no one steps in their way and buy anyone who gets in their way," said Wedbush analyst Michael Pachter, who follows social media.

Buying Instagram, he added, not only eliminates a rival but gives Facebook the technology "that is gaining crazy traction."

Facebook is paying cash and stock for San Francisco-based Instagram and hiring its dozen or so employees. The deal is expected to close by the end of June.

It's a windfall not just for Instagram's employees, but the venture capital firms backing the company. Last week, Sequoia Capital led an investment round that valued Instagram at $500 million, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Going by the $1 billion price tag, Facebook is paying about $33 for each Instagram user. That's a fraction of the $118 that Facebook investors will be paying per Facebook user if the company gets its expected $100 billion valuation after going public. By that math, Pachter said, $1 billon "doesn't sound crazy."

Getting Instagram is a big win for Facebook as it works to harness people's growing obsession with their mobile devices and sharing every moment of their life. The company's own mobile application is not as easy to use as Instagram, and sharing photos can be downright clunky. Facebook's way, noted Pachter, has always been to buy technology if it's better than what it can build on its own.

Facebook, which is based in Menlo Park, Calif., said it plans to keep Instagram running independently. That's a departure from its tendency to buy small startups and integrate the technology—or shut them down altogether just so it can hire talented engineers and developers.

"This is an important milestone for Facebook because it's the first time we've ever acquired a product and company with so many users," CEO Mark Zuckerberg wrote on his Facebook page Monday announcing the deal. "We don't plan on doing many more of these, if any at all."

He said Facebook plans to keep allowing people to post from Instagram to other social networks, including Twitter. Users will also be able to keep their Instagrams off of Facebook if they want to.

"We think the fact that Instagram is connected to other services beyond Facebook is an important part of the experience," Zuckerberg said.

Microsoft deal with AOL part of patent scramble

NEW YORK (AP)—AOL's $1 billion deal to sell and license patents to Microsoft is another in a series of "Antiques Roadshow" moments in the technology world. Faded companies have been rummaging through their assets recently, and some of them have found musty old patents that turn out to be worth a great deal.

Patents have become a hot commodity in recent years. They give the holder the exclusive right to use certain technologies or business processes in the U.S. Companies such as Microsoft, Apple, Facebook, Google and others are collecting large patent libraries and increasingly using them in lawsuits—to defend their businesses or to attack rivals.

A valuable patent is less like a forgotten Rembrandt and more like a rusty-but-serviceable gun.

"Patents have become legal weapons. They're not representing ideas anymore," says James Bessen, a lecturer at Boston University and the director of a nonprofit that studies patent issues.

Two big deals in the past year have pushed patents into the spotlight.

In July, a consortium that included Apple Inc. and Microsoft Corp. pledged to pay $4.5 billion for a collection of patents from Nortel Networks, a bankrupt Canadian maker of telecommunications equipment. By contrast, Nortel's once-prominent wireless networks business fetched just $1.13 billion in 2009.

The consortium outbid Google Inc. for the Nortel patents. But Google struck back in August, when it sealed a deal to buy cellphone company Motorola Mobility Holdings Inc. for $12.5 billion. Motorola is well past its prime as a cellphone maker, but as a technology front-runner for decades, its engineers had accumulated 17,500 patents for the company. The deal with Google has yet to close.

Google wants Motorola's patents as a defense against lawsuits related to its Android operating software for phones and tablets. Motorola, Samsung Electronics Co. and other phone makers have been riding Apple's coattails with devices that are similar to Apple's iPhone and iPad. Apple is fighting back, using patent law in an attempt to delay competitors.

Google supplies Motorola and Samsung with phone software, so it doesn't want to see Apple succeed with its lawsuits. It's buying Motorola so it can use its patents to sue Apple, a threat that could force Apple to the negotiating table or avoid suing Google's partners altogether.

Because of their complexity, high-tech products are particularly susceptible to patent litigation. Hundreds of thousands of patents could apply to a smartphone, for instance. A competitor sitting on any one of those patents could ask a court to stop sales of the product. Things rarely get that far, however. Instead, the defendant usually ends up paying the patent owner ongoing royalties.

Carriers agree to disable stolen phones for good

WASHINGTON (AP)—Cellphone companies and the government are trying to make it as difficult to use a stolen cellphone as it is to sell a stolen car.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer said in a statement late Monday that major cellphone carriers and the Federal Communications Commission have agreed to set up a database of identification numbers that are unique to each phone.

Using the list, cellular carriers will be able to permanently disable a phone once it's been reported stolen. Until now, U.S. carriers have only been disabling so-called "SIM" cards, which can be swapped in and out. That's enabled a black market to exist for stolen phones.

Schumer said that the goal of the agreement is to make a stolen cellphone "as worthless as an empty wallet."

He has said that unique ID numbers known as International Mobile Equipment Identity numbers are already effectively used in Europe to deter stealing.

Schumer also said he will introduce legislation to make it a federal crime to alter or tamper with a phone's IMEI number.

According to New York police, 42 percent of all property crimes of individuals in New York City in 2011 involved a cell phone, and some crimes have been accompanied by violence. Both iPhones and Android phones use SIM card technology that makes them susceptible to being resold after thefts.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

20 flights on NKorean rocket path rerouted

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Several airlines will reroute flights over the Philippines to avoid a rocket North Korea is expected to launch between this and next week, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines said Tuesday. About 20 flights including Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific, All Nippon Airways, Japan Airlines, Korean Airlines, Garuda Indonesia and Delta Airlines will be rerouted between Thursday and Monday, when North Korea says it will launch a satellite. The exact timing depends on weather.

Oil hovers near $102 amid signs of weak US economy

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above $102 a barrel Tuesday in Asia as weak March hiring raised the prospect that U.S. crude demand will remain tepid. Benchmark oil for May delivery was down 18 cents to $102.28 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 85 cents to settle at $102.59 in New York on Monday. Brent crude for May delivery was down 30 cents at $122.37 per barrel in London.

Bernanke says Fed working on regulatory failures

WASHINGTON (AP)—Chairman Ben Bernanke said Monday that the Federal Reserve is working to address the regulatory failures that were exposed by the 2008 financial crisis. But he cautioned that as the financial system evolves, new risks will emerge. The Fed has overhauled its regulatory efforts to focus much more on the stability of the entire financial system, Bernanke said. It seeks to avoid mistakes of the past crisis, such as big non-bank institutions escaping the supervision.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,929.59	1,382.20	3,047.08
-130.55	-15.88	-33.42
-1.00%	-1.14%	-1.08%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9701	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7646	Philippine Peso	42.8000
British Pound	0.6293	Indian Rupee	51.2200	Singapore Dollar	1.2608
Canadian Dollar	0.9966	Indonesian Rupiah	9,175.00	South Korean Won	1,140.31
Chinese Yuan	6.3143	Japanese Yen	81.3010	Swiss Franc	0.9171
Euro	0.7630	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0685	Taiwan Dollar	29.5150
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2180	Thailand Baht	30.9450

Nation

Romney faces lengthy to-do list as likely GOP pick

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Mitt Romney faces a daunting to-do list as he transitions into the role of likely Republican presidential nominee.

Among the tasks: Raise as much money as possible for the general election campaign against President Barack Obama. Hire more people and send them to the most critical states in the fall race. Hone his message to appeal to voters across the political spectrum.

And do it all quickly while fending off challenges from GOP rivals who refuse to quit the primary race.

Obama, with the advantages of an incumbent, is well ahead of Romney on fundraising, organization and broad pitches to voters. So Romney can be expected to spend part of his time over the next three weeks trying to catch up. There's a break in the primaries lasting until April 24, when several Northeastern states vote.

Romney also must start thinking about a running mate and strategy to amass the 270 electoral votes needed to win the White House on Nov. 6.

The former Massachusetts governor must prepare to put his imprint on the Republican National Committee and figure out how to achieve unity with a conservative base that has resisted his candidacy. In the general election, party loyalists will be counted on to raise money and get out the vote.

AP

In this Feb. 1, 2012, file photo Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney talks to reporters on his campaign plane en route from Tampa, Fla.

"I do think the Romney team is thinking about how they put in place their fall campaign," said Terry Nelson, a former top aide to President George W. Bush. "But they clearly have some contests to get through, so they won't be able to turn their eyes entirely to that."

There's little question that Romney will clinch the nomination in June, if not earlier. He has a wide lead in the race for the 1,144 delegates required to secure the GOP nomination. But chief rival Rick Santorum says he'll press on at least through the end of the month. Pennsylvania, which he represented in the House and Senate, votes April 24, along with Connecticut, Delaware, New York and Rhode Island.

In hopes of convincing Republicans it's time to rally behind Romney, leading Republicans such as Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin have endorsed him recently; both are viewed as potential running mates. Former Rhode Island Gov. Don Carcieri has said he would back Romney and Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad may announce his support soon.

Romney is sounding more like a general election candidate each day. "It isn't about one person or about even one party," he said last week. "We're Republicans and Democrats in this campaign, but we're all connected with one destiny for America."

After a break for the Easter holiday, Romney is expected to plunge back into fundraising in New York and South Florida. That's none too soon for Republicans, given Obama's fundraising advantage.

"Ultimately, the thing we have to focus on is getting the general election money raised," said Brian Ballard, of Florida, one of Romney's top fundraisers.

Motive for Tulsa shootings may lie in 2010 killing

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—The explanation for a shooting rampage that terrorized Tulsa's black neighborhood and left three people dead may lie in a killing that took place more than two years ago.

Carl England, whose son is accused in the weekend shooting spree, was fatally shot in 2010 by a man who had threatened his daughter and tried to kick in the door of her home.

The man was black, and police say England's son may have been seeking vengeance when he and his roommate shot five black people last week.

Police documents given to the Associated Press said the two suspects have both confessed. According to a police statement, 19-year-old Jake England admitted shooting three people and 32-year-old Alvin Watts confessed to shooting two.

Also Monday, the two suspects appeared in court to have their bond set at $9.16 million apiece. Authorities have said they expect to charge the pair with three counts of first-degree murder and other crimes.

Family and friends say Carl England's death sent his son into a downward spiral. On Thursday, Jake England apparently wrote a Facebook post marking the second anniversary of his father's death and lamented that "it's hard not to go off."

Back in 2010, Carl England had responded to his daughter's call for help and with her boyfriend tracked down the man who tried to break in. A fight broke out, and the man took out a gun and fired at England.

The man who pulled the trigger, Pernell Jefferson, was not charged with homicide because an investigation determined he acted in self-defense.

Jefferson was charged with attempted burglary and a weapons violation and had his probation revoked in an unrelated weapons case for which he is serving a six-year sentence. He is scheduled to be tried in May on the burglary charge.

According to an affidavit, Jefferson tried to kick in the door of the apartment England's daughter shared with her boyfriend after the boyfriend hit him with a baseball bat during an earlier confrontation at the couple's home.

When Carl England and the boyfriend found Jefferson, Jefferson came at England, who hit Jefferson with a stick. Jefferson fell to the ground, pulled out a handgun and fatally shot the elder England.

Jefferson fled but was arrested after seeking treatment for his injuries at a hospital.

Watts' brother, Gene, told the Tulsa World that Watts moved in with England soon after his father died to help him rebuild his life and deal with his anger, which seemed to be racially focused.

"I've never known my brother to be no racist or anything like that," Gene Watts said. "I know he was going through a little bit of depression problems, but other than that, he's got in little scuffles before, but he's never went off and done this."

Alicia Houston, who lives near the roommates, told the newspaper she has known England since he was a child and "from the time his father died, that boy has been somebody else." She said England needed therapy "from the beginning" but didn't receive it. He was taking medication for depression, she said.

Trayvon Martin's killing won't go to Fla. grand jury

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A grand jury will not look into the Trayvon Martin case, a special prosecutor said Monday, leaving the decision of whether to charge the teen's shooter in her hands alone and eliminating the possibility of a first-degree murder charge.

That prosecutor, Angela Corey, said her decision had no bearing on whether she would file charges against George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch volunteer who has said he shot the unarmed black teen in self-defense. Corey could still decide to charge him with a serious felony such as manslaughter, which can carry a lengthy prison sentence if he is convicted.

A grand jury had been set to meet Tuesday in Sanford, about 20 miles northeast of Orlando.

Corey has long had a reputation for not using grand juries if it wasn't necessary. In Florida, only first-degree murder cases require the use of grand juries.

Corey's decision means she doesn't have to rely on potentially unpredictable jurors, said David Hill, an Orlando criminal defense attorney.

"Let's give her the benefit of the doubt. Maybe she knows there isn't enough for first-degree murder but she wants to maintain control and charge him with something else," Hill said. "What does she need a grand jury for? She cuts out the unpredictability of the grand jury. She goes where she feels she has more evidence."

Corey took over the case last month after the prosecutor who normally handles cases out of Sanford recused himself. That prosecutor, Norm Wolfinger, had originally called for the case to be presented before a grand jury.

"From the moment she was assigned, Ms. Corey noted she may not need a grand jury," said a statement from Corey's office.

Prosecutors sometimes use grand juries to avoid the political fallout from controversial cases. But Corey was elected by voters more than 100 miles away in the Jacksonville area, so political problems are less of an issue for Corey, Hill said.

Martin was killed Feb. 26 during a confrontation with Zimmerman in a gated community in Sanford.

Zimmerman has claimed self-defense, and Florida's self-defense law gives wide leeway to use deadly force and eliminates a person's duty to retreat in the face of danger.

ACROSS THE NATION

Md. winner claims share of $656M jackpot

BALTIMORE (AP)—The holder of a winning Mega Millions ticket sold in Maryland claimed a share of the record-breaking $656 million prize on Monday, but will remain anonymous, state lottery officials announced. The winner claimed the prize at lottery headquarters with a ticket matching all six numbers: 2-4-23-38-46 and the Mega Ball, 23, said Maryland Lottery spokeswoman Carole Everett. The winner will remain anonymous, but officials will share some details at a news conference Tuesday morning, she said. Maryland does not require lottery winners to be identified. The jackpot was the biggest in Mega Millions history, and the three winners—one each in Maryland, Illinois and Kansas—will each receive more than $218 million before taxes. Kansas' winner claimed a share of the jackpot Friday, but also decided to remain anonymous.

Seattle council protects public breastfeeding

SEATTLE (AP)—It's already against Washington state law to discriminate against public breastfeeding, but the Seattle City Council on Monday specifically made it illegal for businesses and other entities to ask nursing moms to stop, cover up or move to a different location in public areas. The council unanimously approved a measure that adds a mother's right to breastfeed her child to a list of protected civil rights, such as race, color, disability and religion—allowing the city's office of civil rights to enforce the law and educate the public about the issue. "The bottom line is, it's a health issue for our community," said Councilman Bruce Harrell, who sponsored the bill. "It's very clear the benefits of breastfeeding. What we want to do is move the needle in terms of community acceptance of breastfeeding by having our local civil office of rights enforcing the law."

2 firefighters die in Philadelphia warehouse fire

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Two firefighters who were battling a massive blaze at an abandoned warehouse Monday were killed when an adjacent furniture store they were inspecting collapsed, burying them in a pile of debris, authorities said. It took about two hours to extract the bodies of Lt. Robert Neary, 60, and firefighter Daniel Sweeney, 25, because of all the debris, Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers said. Two other firefighters were rescued and taken to a hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of these two firefighters," Mayor Michael Nutter said. "It just hurts a great, great deal."

Asia

AP

South Korean Army soldiers watch a TV news program which shows North Korea's Unha-3 rocket at Seoul train station in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, April 9, 2012.

South Korea says North preparing for nuclear test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Recent satellite images show North Korea is digging a new tunnel in what appears to be preparation for a third nuclear test, according to South Korean intelligence officials.

The excavation at North Korea's northeast Punggye-ri site, where nuclear tests were conducted in 2006 and 2009, is in its final stages, according to a report by intelligence officials that was shared Monday with The Associated Press.

Its release comes as North Korea prepares to launch a long-range rocket that Washington and others say is a cover for testing missile technology that could be used to fire on the United States.

The Obama administration said Monday it would consider both a rocket launch and an underground nuclear test as highly provocative acts that would leave Pyongyang more isolated.

"In each case this would be an indication of North Korea's decision at the leadership level not to take the steps that are necessary to allow North Korea to end its isolation, to rejoin the community of nations and to do something about the extreme poverty and depravation that its people suffer," White House spokesman Jay Carney told a news briefing in Washington.

Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and current Security Council president, told CNN on Monday that "either or both developments would be a blatant violation of North Korea's international obligations under Security Council resolutions."

"In the Security Council in New York, I anticipate that the council would convene to discuss this and to respond in a credible fashion, both to the missile launch and to any potential additional subsequent actions," she said.

Observers fear a repeat of 2009, when international criticism of the North's last long-range rocket launch prompted Pyongyang to walk away from nuclear disarmament negotiations and, weeks later, conduct its second nuclear test. A year later, 50 South Korean were killed in attacks blamed on the North.

Chinese housing activist is jailed for unruly acts

BEIJING (AP)—A veteran Chinese activist left disabled by past police mistreatment was sentenced Tuesday to two years and eight months in jail for fraud and provoking trouble.

Ni Yulan was sentenced by a Beijing court along with her husband, Dong Jiqin, who was jailed for two years.

Their arrest last year came as China carried out a sweeping crackdown to deter popular uprisings such as the ones that shook the Arab world.

She was convicted of causing a disturbance at a hotel where they had been detained by police. The court said the couple failed to pay 69,972 yuan ($11,100) in hotel bills between June 2010 and April 2011. Ni also was convict of posing as a lawyer and receiving 5,000 yuan through deceit ($795).

Ni and her supporters deny the charges and say she is being punished for her years of activism, especially her advocacy for people forced from their homes to make way for the fast-paced real estate development that remade Beijing for the 2008 Olympics. Her outspokenness earned her the enmity of officials and developers.

ASIA BRIEFS

Court stops Philippine mall from cutting trees

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court has halted extension work on a mall amid a public outcry over plans to cut down nearly 200 trees in a popular urban forest. The court in northern Baguio on Tuesday issued a temporary environmental protection order stopping SM malls, one of the country's biggest chains, from uprooting the trees in downtown Baguio, known as the city of pines and the Philippines' summer capital. SM Prime Holdings Inc. had previously secured permission to expand the existing mall and promised to replant the towering Alnus trees in another location to make room for a new multilevel development.

Malaysia to end indefinite detention without trial

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's government introduced legislation Tuesday to prevent people from being arrested for their political beliefs or detained indefinitely without trial. The Security Offenses Bill presented to Parliament's lower house marks a big step in placating rights groups that have long accused authorities of using detention without trial to stifle dissent. The bill is meant to replace the 52-year-old Internal Security Act, which was enacted to give the government preventive powers against people accused of threatening national security following a communist insurgency.

World

Syria fires over borders with Lebanon, Turkey

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian forces opened fire across two tense borders Monday, killing a TV journalist in Lebanon and at least two people in a refugee camp in Turkey on the eve of a deadline for a cease-fire plan that seems all but certain to fail.

Across Syria, activists reported particularly heavy violence with more than 125 people killed in the past two days.

The Obama administration expressed outrage at the violence spilling over the frontiers, saying the Syrian government appeared to have little commitment to the peace plan that was negotiated by former U.N. chief Kofi Annan.

The latest bloodshed was a sign of how easily Syria's neighbors could be drawn into a regional conflagration as President Bashar Assad's crackdown on a year-old uprising becomes increasingly militarized, despite desperate diplomatic efforts.

Annan brokered a deal that was supposed to begin with Syria pulling its troops out of population centers by Tuesday morning, with a full cease-fire by both sides within 48 hours. But hopes for the plan collapsed after a fresh wave of violence and new demands by the regime for written guarantees that the opposition will lay down arms first.

Naci Koru, Turkey's deputy foreign minister, said Tuesday's deadline for the withdrawal has become "void at this stage," state-run TRT television reported.

The U.N. estimates some 9,000 people have been killed in Syria since March 2011, when the uprising began with mostly peaceful protests against Assad. But a government crackdown led many Syrians take up weapons, transforming the conflict into an insurgency.

On Monday, Syrian forces fired across the border into a refugee camp in Turkey, wounding at least six people, Turkish authorities said. But four witnesses in the camp told The Associated Press that two people in the camp also had been shot and killed.

One of the witnesses, Tareq Abdul-Haqq, said he saw two refugees killed in front of him.

He said the two were in a crowd that was shouting anti-Assad slogans during a demonstration that erupted after word got through the camp that rebels had ambushed the Syrian checkpoint.

"They started chanting 'God is Great!' and the army and the security forces targeted them," Abdul-Haqq, 26, told The Associated Press by telephone.

Another witness, who asked to be identified only by his first name, Bassel, also witnessed the attack and said one of the victims was shot in the neck and the other was shot in the back.

Iran proposal joins jockeying before nuclear talks

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran is signaling a possible compromise offer heading into critical talks with world powers deeply suspicious of its nuclear program: offering to scale back uranium enrichment but not abandon the ability to make nuclear fuel.

The proposal—floated by the country's nuclear chief as part of the early parrying in various capitals before negotiations get under way Friday—suggested that sanctions-battered Iran is ready to bargain.

But this gambit, at least, appeared to fall short of Western demands that Iran hand over its most potent nuclear material and ease a standoff that has rattled nerves and spooked markets with seesaw oil prices and threats of Israeli military strikes.

"It is important for Iran to understand that the window is closing and that these talks are an opportunity," White House press secretary Jay Carney said Monday. "The decision rests with Iran."

The talks involving Iran and the five permanent U.N. Security Council nations plus Germany, to be held in Istanbul, are the first direct negotiations on Tehran's nuclear program since a swift collapse more than 14 months ago.

Despite far-reaching complexities, the dispute effectively boils down to one issue: Iran's stated refusal to close down its uranium enrichment labs.

For Iran, uranium enrichment is a proud symbol of its scientific advances and technological self-sufficiency. Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, called the nuclear program on Sunday "a locomotive" for other showcase projects such as Iran's space effort.

The U.S. and its allies contend that the same sites that make fuel for reactors could also eventually churn out weapons-grade material. Iran has repeatedly insisted that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only.

The ideas put forth late Sunday by the nuclear chief, Fereidoun Abbasi, are an attempt to at least acknowledge this huge divide.

Abbasi said Tehran could eventually stop its production of the 20 percent enriched uranium needed for a research reactor, used for medical research and treatments. But, he added, Iran would continue enriching uranium to lower levels of about 3.5 percent for power generation.

Libya: Gadhafi son to be tried inside country

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi's son and former heir apparent Seif al-Islam will be put on trial inside Libya and there will be a verdict before mid-June, a Libyan official said Monday.

The decision comes despite appeals by rights groups to Libyan authorities to hand him over to the International Criminal Court in The Hague due to fears that he may not get a fair trial in Libya.

A trial in the capital Tripoli would however mark a small step forward for the central government, which has been struggling to unify the country under its authority since Moammar Gadhafi's capture and killing last year.

Seif al-Islam had been held until now by his captors, ex-rebels from the town of Zintan, one of dozens of militias across the country operating outside government control. For months, the Zintan militia refused to give him up to Tripoli's officials.

Spokesman of the ruling National Transitional Council Mohammed al-Hareizi said that Seif al-Islam will be transferred to Tripoli within 10 days and that his trial will conclude before parliamentary elections scheduled two months from now.

It was not immediately clear if he would be tried in a military court, where there is no appeal.

"He will be tried for rape, murder, corruption and we expect him to be tried and a verdict rendered before the upcoming elections in mid-June," al-Hareizi told reporters in Tripoli.

No timeframe was given for when his trial would begin, but al-Hareizi said the trial could start as early as this month.

Focus

After $1B, experts see progress on autism's causes

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—More than $1 billion has been spent over the past decade searching for the causes of autism. In some ways, the research looks like a long-running fishing expedition, with a focus on everything from genetics to the age of the father, the weight of the mother, and how close a child lives to a freeway.

That perception may soon change. Some in the field say it's the beginning of a wave of scientific reports that should strengthen some theories, jettison others and perhaps even herald new drugs.

ON THE NET

- CDC study under way: http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/seed.html
- Northern California study: http://beincharge.ucdavis.edu
- Pennsylvania researchers' study: http://www.earlistudy.org

The effort has been infused with new urgency by a recent federal report that found autism disorders are far more common than was previously understood, affecting 1 in 88 U.S. children. Better diagnosis is largely responsible for the new estimate, but health officials said there may actually be more cases of autism, too.

If autism's causes remain a mystery, "you're not going to be able to stop this increase," said Irva Hertz-Picciotto, a researcher at the University of California, Davis who is leading a closely watched study into what sparks autism disorders.

In the past week, a spate of studies released during National Autism Awareness Month has offered tantalizing new information about potential causes. Research published in the journal Nature widened the understanding of the genetic roots of some cases and confirmed the elevated risks for children with older fathers. Another study, released online Monday in Pediatrics, suggested maternal obesity may play a role.

To be sure, finding the causes of autism—an umbrella term for a variety of disorders that delay children socially or intellectually—remains daunting. The causes are believed to be complicated, and not necessarily the same for each child. Some liken autism to cancer—a small word for a wide range of illnesses. In many cases, autism can be blamed on both genetic problems that load the gun and other factors that pull the trigger.

It's has been a growing public concern for two decades, as studies have found it to be more and more prevalent. The U.S. government dramatically increased funding for research of it in the last decade, and now budgets about $170 million a year through the National Institutes of Health.

More than a half-dozen foundations and autism advocacy groups have been adding to the pot, putting annual research spending in recent years at more than $300 million. About a third of that has been devoted to finding autism's causes.

The lion's share of money for finding a cause has been spent on genetics, which so far experts believe can account for roughly 20 percent of cases. The earliest success was in the early 1990s and involved the discovery of the genetic underpinnings of Fragile X syndrome, a rare condition that accounts for just 2 to 4 percent of autism cases but is the most common form of inherited intellectual disability in boys.

The focus on genetics has been bolstered by dramatic improvements in gene mapping as well as the bioengineering of mice with autism symptoms. Dozens of risk genes have been identified, and a half-dozen drug companies are said to be working on developing new treatments.

"We've made some very significant progress on the genetics end of this search," said Dr. Thomas Insel, director of the National Institute of Mental Health.

Scientists have used autistic mice to test new drugs. Among the most promising is a small, white, strawberry-flavored pill that is so experimental it doesn't have a name. Developed by a Massachusetts company called Seaside Therapeutics Inc., the drug is aimed at a problem area in the brains of autistic children, where neurons connect and conduct signals through the nervous system.

AP

In this undated photo provided by the UC Davis Health System, Irva Hertz-Picciotto is shown. Irva Hertz-Picciotto, a researcher at the University of California, Davis, is leading a study into what sparks autism disorders.

It's a bit like the way tree-hopping ants might cross the twig ends of one tree branch to another. In Fragile X syndrome, scientists have noted the branches are thinner and the twigs too numerous. The experimental drug thins the twigs and strengthens the branches, allowing a more solid and centralized bridge.

The same problem hasn't been as visible in other types of autism, but many believe the phenomenon is somewhat similar.

The drug was deemed successful in mice and is now being tested in children and adults. In small, early studies, the drug made a striking difference in small groups of Fragile X children, causing hermit-like youngsters to start hanging out in the kitchen to chat with their mothers, said Dr. Paul Wang, Seaside's vice president of clinical development.

Now it is being tried in a preliminary study of about 150 children with a range of other autism disorders, including Asperger's. The results are expected to be presented at a scientific conference in the next year.

"It's going to be an exciting time, we hope," when those results come in, said Geraldine Dawson, a psychologist who is chief science officer for the advocacy group Autism Speaks.

But even genetics enthusiasts acknowledge that genes are only part of the answer. Studies of identical twins have shown that autism can occur in one and not the other, meaning something outside a child's DNA is triggering the disorder in many cases. Some cases may be entirely due to other causes, Dawson said.

That broad "other" category means "environmental" influences—not necessarily chemicals, but a grab bag of outside factors that include things like the age of the father at conception and illnesses and medications the mother had while pregnant.

For years, the best-known environmental theory involved childhood vaccines, prompted by a flawed 1998 British study that has been thoroughly discredited. Dozens of later studies have found no link between vaccines and autism.

But there are other possible candidates. In all cases, these are "association" studies—they don't prove cause and effect. They merely find connections between certain factors and autism. And sometimes these conclusions can be skewed by other things researchers failed to account for. Some study results expected within a year:

■ Hertz-Picciotto's study of 1,600 children in Northern California is comparing autistic children, youngsters with other developmental disabilities, and those who have no such diagnoses. Some results have been released already, including the recent finding that suggests a link between autism and a mother's obesity. An earlier part of the study found that children born to mothers living less than two blocks from a freeway were twice as likely to have autism—presumably because of auto exhaust and air pollution, the researchers speculated.

■ A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study involves 2,700 families nationwide. The researchers are interviewing parents and poring over medical records to look for common threads among autistic families, as well as doing genetics tests and checking hair samples for mercury. Much of the focus is on illnesses, medications, nutritional deficiencies or other problems during pregnancy.

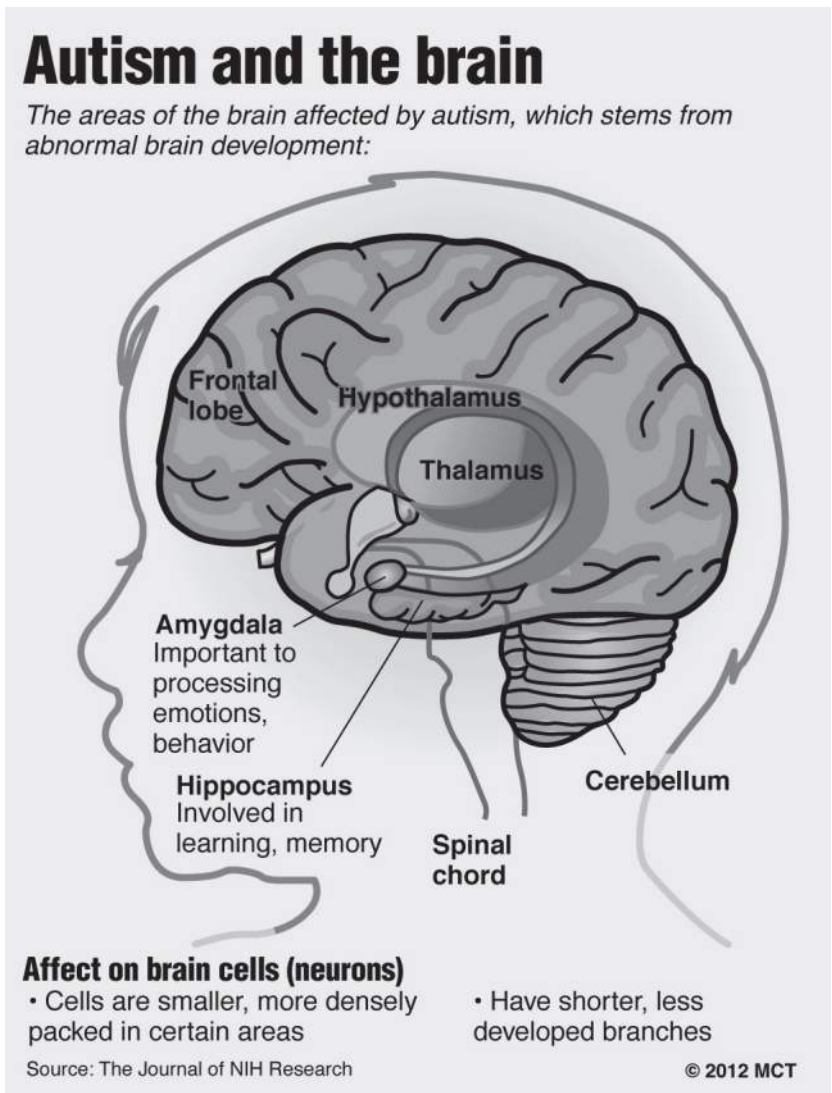
■ A study by Pennsylvania researchers involves 1,700 families in various regions of the country. Scientists are doing brain-imaging to look for changes over time in the brains of infants who have an older autistic sibling.

■ A large Scandinavian study is examining patient registries in six countries for prenatal risk factors.

As study findings are reported, researchers are hoping to see repetition—confirmation, that is—that certain factors are playing significant roles.

Even so, scientists are still casting nets.

Said Coleen Boyle, a CDC official overseeing research into children's developmental disabilities: "We're at the infancy of just understanding how these factors relate to autism."


Autism and the brain
The areas of the brain affected by autism, which stems from abnormal brain development:
Frontal lobe
Hypothalamus
Thalamus
Amygdala
Important to processing emotions, behavior
Hippocampus
Involved in learning, memory
Spinal chord
Cerebellum
Affect on brain cells (neurons)
• Cells are smaller, more densely packed in certain areas
• Have shorter, less developed branches
Source: The Journal of NIH Research
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Campus Life

College seniors face better job prospects but continued angst

By MEGHAN FARNSWORTH
THE HECHINGER REPORT

MCT
Meredith Ballard, a 22-year-old economics major at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado, started to feel she was spending more time traveling to job interviews then going to class last fall as she started her senior year.

Meredith Ballard is an economics major at Colorado College. But when she began her senior year last fall, she started feeling she was spending more time traveling to job interviews than going to class.

"It got stressful," said Ballard, 22, of Green Oaks, Ill. "I had to work on my thesis on top of having a very difficult class while trying to land a job."

The employment market may be picking up, but graduating seniors like Ballard—who landed a job with a Chicago advertising agency and will start next month— have in many cases known nothing during their college careers but economic turbulence and high unemployment.

"Nowhere has the economic impact been as traumatic (as) for college seniors graduating in the last four years," said Richard Berman, director of career services at Oberlin College.

To forestall entering the job market, many soon-to-be graduates are taking unpaid internships or social service work, going to graduate school, or even trying to start their own businesses.

Those who are searching for jobs are making it a higher priority than schoolwork. Gone is the luxury of taking it easy senior year.

There are some glimmers of hope. The unemployment rate for recent college graduates is 6.2 percent, lower than the overall rate and the lowest since the start of the recession. And employers surveyed by the National Association of Colleges and Employers said they planned to hire 10.2 percent more new graduates this year than last year.

Still, the odds for job-seekers in many fields remain long.

"This year's seniors are landing more interviews, but I think it's more a function of their tenacity" than an increase in the number of jobs available, said Lisa Kastor, director of career services at the College of Wooster in Ohio.

Jacob Meyers of Elyria, Ohio, for example, applied for 35 jobs and got three interviews, but no offers.

"I just don't want to be floating around after college," said Meyers, 22, who is job-hunting while finishing requirements for his triple major in English, theater, and gender, sexuality and feminist studies at Oberlin. "There just seems to be this pressure from everywhere. Everyone is looking for a job. Even my mom is dead set on me finding one. She's scared, too."

At Washington and Lee University in Virginia, 15 students applied to meet on campus with a recruiter for an investment bank. Six got interviews. The bank has one position available.

"The employers are doing a lot more screening," including remotely by Skype before even entertaining the idea of an in-person interview, said Beverly Lorig, director of career services at Washington and Lee. "There's less willingness to consider a 'maybe' candidate."

Meanwhile, students and their families have been subjected to unrelenting bad news from the job front.

"It bruises the psyche of your graduating class," Lorig said. "There's stress with seniors, and there's stress with parents. It's really important that we teach students to be resilient in these times. I fear that a lot of seniors withdraw after they get roughed up a bit with the rejections."

Many students have reason to be worried. Those who took out loans for college are graduating with an average debt of more than $25,000—twice the 1996 figure —according to the U.S. Department of Education.

For Lauren Martinez of Redmond, Wash., the time she took to job-hunt last semester paid off: The senior economics major at Macalester College in Minnesota found a job at a financial consulting firm in California.

But Martinez said the offer came at the expense of time and energy she could have applied toward schoolwork.

"My grades suffered at the beginning of the semester when I was spending so much time traveling to interviews, practicing interviewing and filling out applications," Martinez said. "It was all so overwhelming."

Still, she's glad she has a job. "It's definitely a relief to know that I'll have a paycheck," she said. "With that in mind, the rest of my senior year will be a lot easier."

This story was produced by The Hechinger Report, a nonprofit, nonpartisan education-news outlet based at Teachers College, Columbia University.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants walk in a loop around Chalan Kanoa with banners and cheers promoting Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Registration and the walk's start were at the William S. Reyes Elementary School.

KICK BUTTS DAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Adm. Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School Leadership Corps led by Michael Berbes and Norman Deleon Guerrero, lead other Hopwood students in the Kick Butts Day parade.

SIOP TRAINING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Public school teachers and administrators raise their hands to participate in the Conga Line activity as part of the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol training.

Life & Style

Spears asks judge to add fiance to conservatorship

Britney Spears has requested that her fiance join her father in decision-making duties involving the pop superstar's conservatorship, court filings show.

The request was made by Spears' court-appointed attorney on Friday and will be considered by a judge later this month.

If approved, Jason Trawick would join Jamie Spears in having control over the singer's major personal decisions, including medical care.

Trawick has served as an agent for Spears, 30, and appeared in court with his future wife last month.

Superior Court Judge Reva Goetz closed the proceedings after attorneys handling the conservatorship said they intended to discuss the singer's medical care and trade secrets.

Jamie Spears also attended the hour-long hearing and hugged his daughter in the courtroom after it concluded.

The filing by Spears' court-appointed attorney, Samuel Ingham III, offers few details. According to the petition, Spears will attend the April 25 hearing during which the request to appoint Trawick as co-conservator will be considered.

Spears has been under court supervision since February 2008 after Jamie Spears stepped in after months of erratic behavior by his daughter.

He and an attorney have had control over the singer's personal and financial affairs since then, and Goetz held several hearings a year to get updates on Spears' health, finances and other issues. Spears rarely attends the hearings but has met several times with the judge.

The Grammy-winning singer and Trawick have been dating since 2009 and announced in December that they are engaged. No wedding date has been announced.

Goetz will also consider whether to allow the sale of Spears' former home in the Hollywood Hills for $4.25 million. The home was a frequent target of the paparazzi and was the residence where Spears was removed under police escort for a psychiatric hold. ***(AP)***

AP

In this May 11, 2011 file photo, singer Britney Spears, right, and Jason Trawick arrive at an Evening of "Southern Style" in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Woman arrested on charges of stalking Alec Baldwin

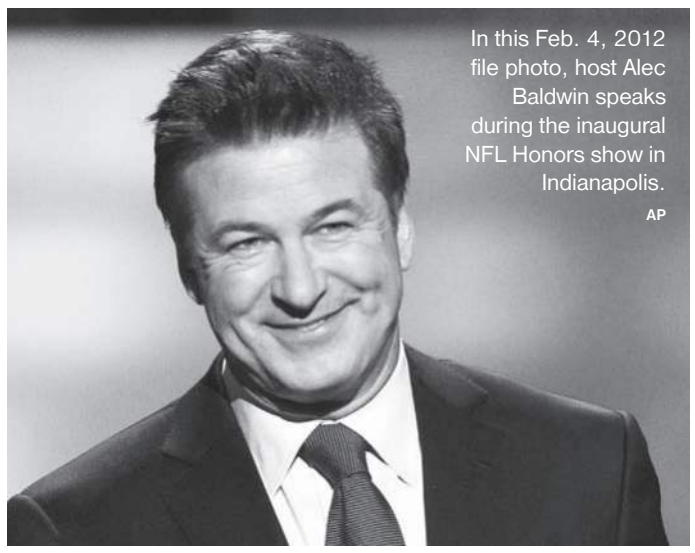
NEW YORK (AP)—A 40-year-old Canadian actress has been arrested on charges of stalking "30 Rock" star Alec Baldwin, police said.

Genevieve Sabourin was awaiting a Manhattan court appearance Monday, a day after she was arrested on charges of stalking and aggravated harassment when Baldwin filed a complaint with police.

"As everyone knows, stalking is a serious issue, so we've turned this matter over to the New York Police Department," said Baldwin's publicist, Matthew Hiltzik.

On April 5, Sabourin showed up at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, where Baldwin was hosting a screening of "Last Tango in Paris," and had to be removed by security, police said.

She was also believed to have turned up unannounced at his home on New York's Long Island on March 31, and went to his address in New York City, in Greenwich Village, while Baldwin was not there.



In this Feb. 4, 2012 file photo, host Alec Baldwin speaks during the inaugural NFL Honors show in Indianapolis.

AP

The two met a decade ago on the set of "The Adventures of Pluto Nash," where he had a cameo and she was a publicist.

According to authorities, the 54-year-old Baldwin told police that the woman had been sending him emails for several weeks, and the notes were disturbing. She professed love for him, begging to have his children and telling him to leave his wife, he said, according to police.

Baldwin recently became engaged to his 28-year-old girlfriend, Hilaria Thomas, a yoga instructor. Baldwin previously was married to actress Kim Basinger. They have a daughter together named Ireland. He published a book in 2008 called "A Promise to Ourselves" about his personal experience dealing with divorce and his fight with Basinger over custody of their daughter.

Sabourin is a resident of Quebec. There was no answer to phone calls made at an address believed to be hers in a suburb outside Montreal.

She has acted in both television and film.

Palin helps 'Today' repel the Couric challenge

NEW YORK (AP)—Sarah Palin is largely responsible for the "Today" show repelling the Katie Couric challenge.

The Nielsen ratings company said Monday that NBC's morning show beat ABC's "Good Morning America" by a margin of 210,000 viewers in the ratings last week. That's one week after the gap between the two shows shrank to 119,000, the smallest in seven years.

The rise of "Good Morning America" this spring has threatened one of television's longest-running streaks: "Today" has not lost a week in the ratings since December 1995. That's a major point of pride at NBC and important financially, since millions of dollars in advertising could be at stake if there's a changing of the guard in the morning.

Smelling a victory, ABC brought former "Today" anchor Couric in as a guest host last week for vacationing Robin Roberts. "Today" countered by bringing in Palin, a former Alaska governor and U.S. vice presidential candidate, as a guest host on Tuesday, and it had host Matt Lauer announce on Friday that he was signing a new contract.

Palin holds a grudge against Couric for an interview that didn't go well during the 2008 presidential race and, by one measure, she achieved some revenge last week.

Two weeks ago, "GMA" had 5.16 million viewers on Tuesday compared to the 5.06 million for "Today," Nielsen said.

But with Palin, the "Today" viewership last Tuesday jumped to 5.5 million. "GMA" that day had 5.14 million viewers.

That increase of 441,000 viewers from one Tuesday to the next enabled "Today" to increase its margin of victory for the week and keep the winning streak intact.

Ronnie Wood: Rolling Stones to go into studio soon

NEW YORK (AP)—Ronnie Wood says the Rolling Stones will meet in a recording studio later this month "to just throw some ideas around."

The guitarist for the legendary rock group said Monday that he and the band just want "to get the feel again."

He also added that the Rolling Stones 50th anniversary is like training for something big.

"It's like working out for the Olympics or something," Wood said. "You've got to go into training. So we're going to go into training."

Wood made the comments Monday in an interview following a press conference for his exhibition, "Faces, Time and Places," which features his own paintings. It includes pieces of him and his band mates, as well as Muhammad Ali and Al Pacino.

Wood, who said he first started painting at age 3, enjoys doing it because it's a reflection of his own ideas, unlike music, which he calls "a group effort."

AP

Rolling Stones guitarist Ronnie Wood stands near one of his pieces during a news conference unveiling his new art exhibit "Faces, Time and Places" on Monday, April 9, 2012, in New York.

The exhibit launched Monday and will close June 30.

Wood's week will get busier when he is inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Saturday as a member of The Faces, along with Rod Stewart. It will be the second induction for the 64-year-old Wood. The Rolling Stones were inducted in 1989.

He'll also perform a solo show at the Golden Nugget in Atlantic City, N.J., on April 21. When asked what fans should expect, he said: "Lots of surprises because I'm going to surprise myself. I don't know what the hell is coming next. The whole set list is going to be made up. I'm making it up every day now."

Wood says he would love go on a solo tour "if I had enough time, but I have too many commitments."

He also talked about possibly recording another solo album.

"Lots of people don't know I've made seven, `cause most of my albums escape; they're not released," he said, laughing. "Keith (Richards) says they all skyrocket to oblivion."

10TH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

ANA BORJA ROBERTO

We the family , invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Tenth Year Death Anniversary of our beloved "Ana" unto eternal life.

Rosaries will be held nightly at the residence of Felipe A. Roberto at 7:00 P.M. starting Wednesday, April 4, 2012 and ending on Thursday, April 12, 2012.

On the last day Mass will be held at 6:00 P.M. at the St. Jude Parish in Koblerville. Dinner will follow at the residence of Felipe A. Roberto in San Vicente.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You

The Family

‘Lion King’ is Broadway’s all-time box office king

NEW YORK (AP)—Very quietly, almost stealthily, a new king has been inaugurated on Broadway.

Box office figures released Monday show that “The Lion King” last week swiped the title of Broadway’s all-time highest grossing show from “The Phantom of the Opera.”

The cumulative gross for “The Lion King” is $853,846,062, according to the show’s numbers. Its chandelier-swinging rival’s cumulative total is $853,122,847, according to the musical’s publicist. The “Lion King” surged past “Phantom” after netting over $2 million at the box office for the week ending Sunday, while “Phantom” pulled in about $1.2 million.

What makes the achievement all the more remarkable is that “The Lion King” chased down and grabbed the title despite “Phantom” having almost a full 10 years’ head start. The Disney show opened in November 1997, while “Phantom” debuted in January 1988.

The upstart’s victory is due in large part to its higher average ticket prices and a slightly larger theater. Monday’s data shows “Phantom” had an average paid admission of $98.97, while “The Lion King” fetched $155.09.

“It doesn’t surprise me,” said Cary Ginell, a music historian and biographer who edited the seventh edition of “Broadway Musicals: Show By Show.” He compares “The Lion King” to a Disneyland ride.

“It’s a spectacle that satisfies on many different sensory elements—audio, visually, emotionally. It’s also good for all ages—just like Disneyland is. For the kids, it’s the visual elements—the colors, the costumes and the puppetry. For the adults, it’s `Hamlet,’ basically. And the music is not geared to one age or gender or race. It’s as universal a show can get.”

AP

In this Jan. 19, 2012 file photo, the Minskoff Theatre and the marquee for “The Lion King” are seen in New York.

Disney Theatrical Productions was gracious when contacted about reaching the milestone, saluting “Phantom” song writer Andrew Lloyd Webber and “Phantom” producer Cameron Mackintosh, who also co-produced Disney’s hit “Mary Poppins,” and calling their show “a global phenomenon of historic proportions.”

Thomas Schumacher, producer and president of Disney Theatrical Productions, also gave credit to Julie Taymor, the director, costume and mask maker of “The Lion King.” “Her vision, continued commitment to the show and uncommon artistry account for this extraordinary success,” he said in a statement.

“This accomplishment belongs to our audiences, millions of whom are experiencing their first Broadway show at `The Lion King,’” Schumacher added. “Surely, introducing so many to the splendor of live theater is our show’s greatest legacy.”

The Broadway League, a trade group that collects revenue from theater owners, has slightly different numbers, putting the cumulative grosses of “The Lion King” at $854,038,152 and “Phantom” at $853,122,847 as of Monday. The League in 2009 changed the way it calculates grosses, which may explain the discrepancy. None of the figures are adjusted for inflation.

To be sure, “Phantom,” now in its 24th year, is still the longest-running show in Broadway history, with more than 10,000 performances and it has sold many more tickets than its Disney rival on the Great White Way, a staggering 14.8 million so far. In comparison, “The Lion King” looks like a pup: It is the sixth longest-running show on Broadway with over 5,900 performances over 14 years and has sold just over 10 million tickets.

“The Lion King” may now have won on Broadway, but “Phantom” is still a juggernaut elsewhere. Its producers have even declared it the most successful entertainment venture of all time, with revenues higher than any film, including “Titanic,” “Star Wars” and “Avatar.”

The total worldwide grosses for “Phantom” are estimated at over $5.6 billion, while the worldwide haul for “Lion” is $4.8 billion. “Phantom” has also been seen by 130 million people worldwide, while “Lion” puts its number at 64 million. Those gaps may also close: “The Lion King” has seven—soon eight—productions worldwide, while “Phantom” has seven productions around the world: London, New York, Hungary, Japan, South Africa, Las Vegas and a UK tour.

Ginell points out that about 40 percent of “Phantom” tickets are sold to repeat customers, an extremely high number. Plus, 68 percent are women. “`Phantom is kind of a live-action romance novel,” he said. “I think that’s what’s attracting a huge percentage of women to the show.”

H. Todd Freeman, vice president of operations at ticket broker Applause Theatre & Entertainment Service, Inc., said the success of “The Lion King” is due to its family draw, big visuals and ticket prices that were double those for “Phantom” when it started.

Both shows now use premium pricing—offering deep-pocketed theatergoers the best seats for a hefty mark up. On Monday, both shows had top premium tickets of about $200. Even so, “The Lion King” still commands a higher average ticket price and shows no signs of softening.

“Will it make 25? I don’t know,” said Freeman, who admits he never thought rival “Phantom” would last this long. “It holds up pretty well all year long but the times when it is the strongest is the Christmas breaks, the Easter breaks, the Spring breaks and the summertime.”

The two share some attributes: Both have musical giants behind them: “Phantom” has songs by Lloyd Webber and is directed by Harold Prince, while “The Lion King” features music by Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice and the vision of Taymor.

Both have multiple Tony Awards, movie tie-ins, simple-to-understand stories and are spectacles—important for attracting tourists whose command of English might be weak. Both are not dependent on having stars on stage. And both call home in similar-sized theaters, “Phantom” at the 1,605-seat Majestic and “Lion” at the 1,677-seat Minskoff.

The staying power of each is remarkable. Over their first 750 playing weeks—which “The Lion King” has recently reached—they’ve played to roughly the same number of people: “The Lion King” at 10,092,235 and “Phantom” at 9,241,333.

Most shows that have achieved a ripe old age never appear in the top 10 by this point in their ages, but both “Lion” and “Phantom” are still routinely among the top earners, week in and week out. On the other side of the ledger, over 500 shows have opened and closed on Broadway during lifetime of “The Lion King.”

Ginell tips his cap to the new box office king and doesn’t see a time soon when it abandons its kingdom. “`Lion King’ is the perfect family musical and I think it always will be as long as expenses don’t go so far up that they won’t be able to afford to put it on anymore.”

Titanic memorial cruise delayed by strong winds

LONDON (AP)—A memorial cruise retracing the route of the Titanic 100 years since it sank has been slightly delayed because of high winds, a spokeswoman for the cruise said Monday.

The Titanic Memorial Cruise arrived at the town of Cobh, on Ireland’s southern coast, about two hours later than scheduled due to the bad weather, Rachel O’Reilly said.

The vessel, called the MS Balmoral, set sail from Southampton in southern England Sunday for the 12-night cruise.

Cobh, once known as Queenstown, was the Titanic’s last port of call before it set out across the Atlantic in April 1912. As the Balmoral pulled into the town’s port Monday, it was welcomed by thousands of cheering well-wishers.

The ship, which carries 1,309 passengers—including relatives of some of the more than 1,500 Titanic passengers who died—will leave Cobh around midnight for the North Atlantic site where the ship hit an iceberg and sank, O’Reilly said.

The cruise seeks to recreate the experience onboard the Titanic—minus the disaster. Many passengers are dressed in period costumes for the journey, as are crew members and stewards. Passengers will also eat meals from the Titanic’s menu, while a live band plays music of the era.

Two special memorial services will take place over the weekend: The first close to midnight Apr. 14, when the Titanic hit the iceberg, and the second on early Apr. 15, when the ship sank.

The Balmoral is operated by Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, whose parent company, Harland and Wolff, built the Titanic in Belfast.

The memorial cruise is among an abundance of commemorations and memorials to the reputedly unsinkable ship that have sprung up to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Titanic’s doomed voyage.

Dior names Raf Simons as new artistic director

PARIS (AP)—Christian Dior has named Belgian designer Raf Simons as its new artistic director, seven months after its icon, John Galliano, was convicted by a Paris court for drunken anti-Semitic ravings.

A fashion rebel of a different sort, Simons—who began his career as a furniture designer and has had his own successful menswear label—will present his first show for the renowned Dior fashion house in July, according to Monday’s announcement.

Galliano was dismissed by Dior in March 2011, days before its fall-winter runway show, after a video went viral on the Internet showing the bad-boy designer inebriated and insulting a fellow client at a Paris cafe. He was heard slurring “I love Hitler,” among other incendiary remarks.

The 44-year-old Simons, who designed for the minimalist Jil Sander label from 2005 until just recently, was a top name among rumored candidates for the Dior job.

A statement by Dior said Simons will serve as artistic director for haute couture, ready-to-wear and women’s accessories. It praised him as “one of the greatest current talents” and said he will “inspire and propel into the 21st century” the style carried on by the prestigious house since its creation in 1946.

“I am thrilled to join this great house ...,” the statement quoted Simons as saying. “The house of Dior is the symbol of absolute elegance.”

How Simons will translate his own vision for Dior will doubtless be the top question at the Paris show in July. His palette has produced both minimalist and maxed-out colors on precision designs.

Simons has had a quirky career. After moving from furniture to menswear in 1995, he then took a sabbatical and ended up as a professor of the fashion department at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, from 2000 until 2005. His menswear label mixed a rebellious touch with precision.

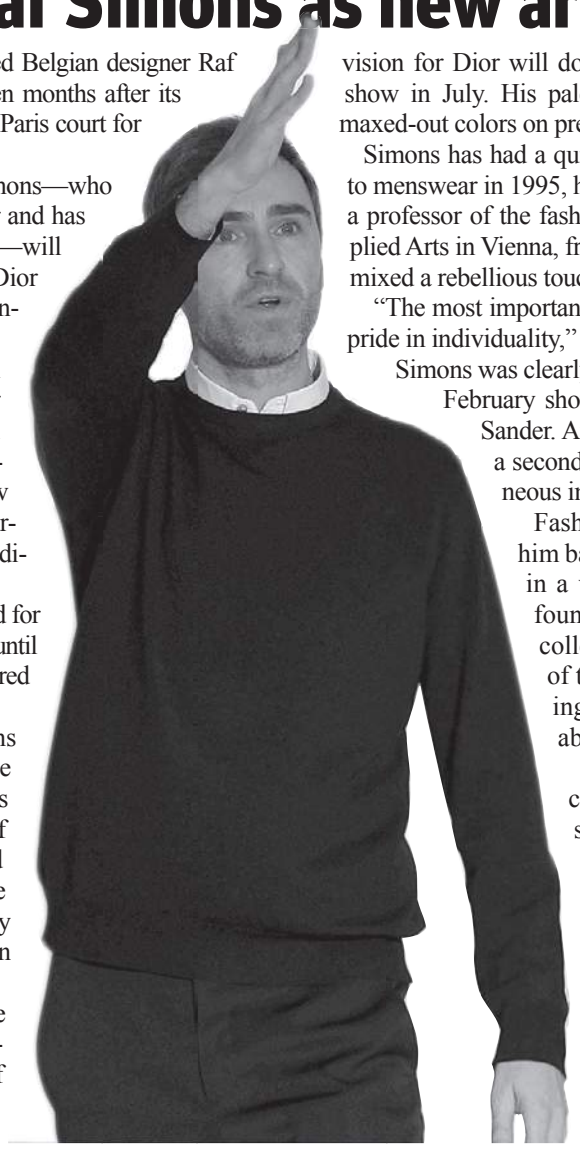
“The most important message Raf wants to communicate is: pride in individuality,” his official CV says.

Simons was clearly preparing for his Dior moment with his February shows in Paris then Milan—his last for Jil Sander. At his Milan finale, he shed tears and took a second curtain call after ovations and a spontaneous invasion of the runway.

Fashionistas will clearly be glad to have him back, this time at a house with deep roots in a venerable fashion institution. After its founding in 1946, Dior presented its first collection a year later. Today, Dior is one of the world’s top fashion houses, producing finely crafted couture to widely available cosmetics.

The interim design leadership at Dior came from Bill Gaytten and was safe and serviceable, but likely not enough to sustain Dior’s buzz and prestige.

With the announcement, Dior can close for good the painful chapter of the Galliano affair.



Belgian designer Raf Simons acknowledges the applause of the audience at the end of the Jil Sander Spring/Summer 2012 women’s collection in Milan, in this Saturday, Sept. 25, 2011 file photo.

AP

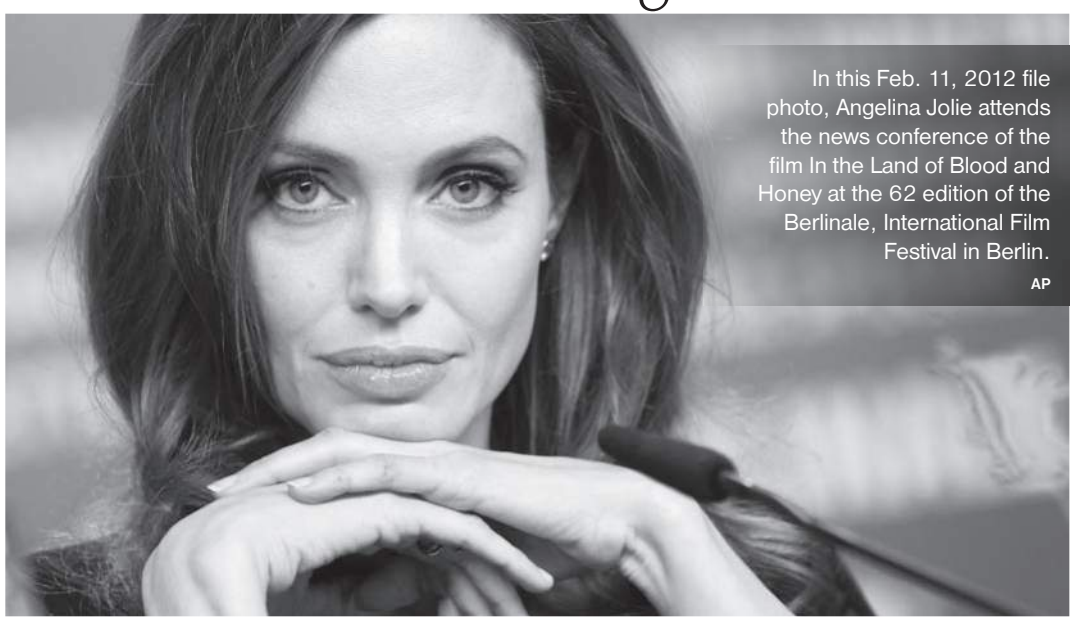
Jolie's wicked turn in 'Maleficent' gets 2014 date

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Angelina Jolie is turning wicked as one of Disney's most-famous villains in "Maleficent," a live-action twist on "Sleeping Beauty" that's set for release just under two years from now.

Walt Disney Studios announced Monday that "Maleficent" is due in theaters on March 14, 2014.

The film will spell out the back story of the evil enchantress in Disney's animated classic "Sleeping Beauty."

Production designer Robert Stromberg, a two-time Academy Award winner for "Avatar" and "Alice in Wonderland," is set to direct.



In this Feb. 11, 2012 file photo, Angelina Jolie attends the news conference of the film In the Land of Blood and Honey at the 62 edition of the Berlinale, International Film Festival in Berlin. AP

Clinton praises movie on Myanmar's Suu Kyi

WASHINGTON (AP)—French director Luc Besson's biopic of Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has won an unusual endorsement.

Hillary Rodham Clinton says she watched the movie, "The Lady," as she flew to the military-dominated country in December on the first trip there by a U.S. secretary of state in 56 years.

She said: "It was a moving experience for me and I think it will be for you."

Clinton was speaking before a screening Monday to a select audience in Washington, attended by Besson and the movie's star, Michelle Yeoh, who plays Suu Kyi.

Clinton thanked Besson for going to a lot of trouble to get her a DVD of the movie, "so I could watch it as I was traveling to actually meet the real person."

She paid tribute to Suu Kyi, and said the screening was an opportunity to celebrate "this extraordinary woman's struggle to bring democracy to her people."

Suu Kyi, a Nobel peace laureate, recently won a seat in Myanmar's parliament as her party swept recent by-elections, prompting the U.S. to ease some economic sanctions.

Jurors being seated in Hudson family murder trial

In this Sept. 27, 2011 file photo, singer and Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Hudson speaks in Chicago. AP

CHICAGO (AP)—A first full day of jury selection in the Chicago trial of the man accused of killing singer and actress Jennifer Hudson's family has ended without the seating of a full jury.

William Balfour is accused of killing Hudson's mother, brother and nephew.

Fourteen people were selected Monday to be among the 12 jurors and six alternates after nine hours of interviewing potential jurors one by one. The last four panelists are expected to be selected Tuesday.

Cook County Circuit Judge Charles Burns and attorneys looked to weed out anyone who might be swayed by the 30-year-old Hudson's celebrity.

The 30-year-old Balfour faces a maximum life sentence if convicted. Burns told would-be jurors that anyone opposed to capital punishment need not worry because Illinois abolished the death penalty this year.

Green Day to induct Guns N' Roses into Rock Hall

CLEVELAND (AP)—Green Day will welcome fellow hard rockers Guns N' Roses into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Rock Hall spokesman Todd Mesek said Monday that Green Day members Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt and Tre Cool will induct Guns N' Roses at Saturday's ceremony at Cleveland's Public Hall.

Mesek says it's not yet known if the original Guns N' Roses lineup will reunite and perform. Mesek say he believes frontman Axl Rose, guitarist Slash and other band members plan to attend. The group split in 1996.

Guns N' Roses stormed onto the music scene in the mid-1980s, awakening an industry then dominated by pop and dance music.

This year's Hall of Fame class includes the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Beastie Boys, Donovan, Laura Nyro and The Small Faces/The Faces.

AP

In this Jan. 31, 2010, file photo, Green Day arrives at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Herman Wouk, 96, has a new novel

NEW YORK (AP)—At age 96, Herman Wouk is ready for a fresh start. The author of "The Caine Mutiny," "The Winds of War" and other classics has a new novel and has switched publishers after decades with Little, Brown and Co. Wouk's "The Lawgiver" is coming out this fall from Simon & Schuster. It's the story of a planned movie about Moses, complete with references to Skype and Twitter. In a statement issued Monday by the publisher, Wouk noted that his first novel, "Aurora Dawn," was also released by Simon & Schuster. That book came out in 1947.

Cyndi Lauper memoir due out this fall

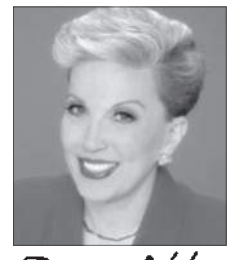
NEW YORK (AP)—Cyndi Lauper swears her book will show her true colors. The award-winning performer has a memoir coming out this fall, Atria Books announced Monday. "Cyndi Lauper" will cover the singer's story from her troubled childhood to superstardom in the 1980s to the "ups and downs" that followed. In a statement issued by Atria, the 58-year-old Lauper said: "Sometimes I come off good, sometimes not so good." Lauper's hits include "True Colors," "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" and "Time After Time." Atria is an imprint of Simon & Schuster.

Doctor surrenders license over pill prescriptions

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Southern California doctor who co-wrote a classic song performed by the Beach Boys has surrendered his medical license amid allegations that he prescribed medications for himself. The Los Angeles Times says the Medical Board of California alleged in a decision made public Monday that Dr. Donald Jay Altfeld prescribed Xanax, Norco and other drugs for himself. Altfeld co-wrote the song "The Little Old Lady From Pasadena" which was first recorded by duo Jan & Dean and was included on a 1964 Beach Boys album. The decision says Altfeld was determined to be a mentally ill drug abuser incapable of safely practicing medicine after he was examined by a psychiatrist appointed by the medical board in 2011. Altfeld could not be reached for comment on Monday.

Comments on her hair color make wild child feel blue

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: What's the best thing to do when someone insults me for being myself? My hair has been bright blue for the last two semesters of college. I like it. I'm young, and my family is letting me express my "wild" side while I'm in school.

Six months ago I went to meet my ex-boyfriend's mother, and the first thing she said to me was, "You're one of my son's phases, right? Boys don't actually bring girls with blue hair home to Mama." Abby, it was with my ex's encouragement that I dyed my hair this bright color.

My family, my church and most of my teachers think it's OK. Is there a social stigma attached to exotically dyed hair? And what's the best way to react when someone insults me for just being myself?

NICE PERSON IN WALLAND, TENN.

DEAR NICE PERSON: Whether there's a stigma attached to looking different depends on who is doing the looking. Some people—your ex-boyfriend's mother, for instance—find it off-putting. Did you tell her that it was with her son's encouragement that you dyed your hair blue? It would have been interesting to see her reaction. It would also be interesting to know what shade his current girlfriend's hair is.

When others comment about the unusual color of your hair, instead of treating it as an insult, smile and say, "Don't judge a book by its cover." Then change the subject.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 26 years. I love him, but he's a terrible listener. He's not that way with everyone. When we're out socializing, he's a good conversationalist and a polite listener. It's when we are home that he never lets me finish a sentence. When we're alone, I can't express a complete opinion or thought without being interrupted halfway through a word or sentence. He just cuts me off and starts talking on the subject.

I'm an intelligent woman with valid opinions, but he would rather hear the sound of his own voice than mine. How do I get him to let me speak and not interrupt?

SILENCED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR SILENCED: Is your husband controlling in other aspects of your relationship? If not, the problem may be that you have been together so long he thinks he knows where your sentences are going, so he responds before you complete your entire thought. One way to handle this would be to tell your husband how patronized it makes you feel when he does it. Another would be to interrupt HIM by saying, "Excuse me! I wasn't finished talking." Or, "You finished my sentence, but that wasn't what I was going to say. What I meant was ..."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My sister, "Beth," and I are very close, but a constant source of contention is her boyfriend, "Brody." Beth and Brody have broken up several times, and each time it happens, she fills me in on every horrible thing he has ever done.

They always seem to get back together, and then Beth expects me to like him despite everything I know. Does the fact that she forgives and forgets mean that I have to do the same?

TOO MUCH INFO IN OHIO

DEAR TOO MUCH INFO: No, it doesn't. But you should be civil, even if you're not warm and friendly. Then cross your fingers and hope your sister recognizes less drama is healthier and the relationship ends soon.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

IF I'VE LEARNED ONE THING IN LIFE, IT'S THAT EVERYONE HAS HIS PRICE.
RAISE THE ANTE HIGH ENOUGH, AND THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS SCRUPLES! PEOPLE WILL DO ANYTHING IF THE PRICE IS RIGHT!
WHAT'S YOUR PRICE?
TWO BUCKS COLD CASH UP FRONT.
I DON'T KNOW WHICH IS WORSE, ..THAT EVERYONE HAS HIS PRICE, OR THAT THE PRICE IS ALWAYS SO LOW.
I'D MAKE MINE HIGHER, BUT IT'S HARD TO FIND BUYERS AS IT IS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THIS IS NICE. WHY DON'T I GO OUTSIDE MORE?
THEY CALL ME NAAATURE BOY...FAH-LA-L
OH, YEAH
JIM DAVIS 4-11
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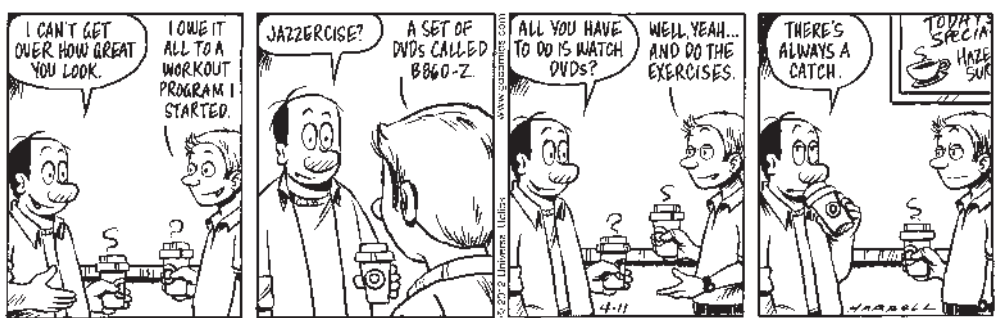
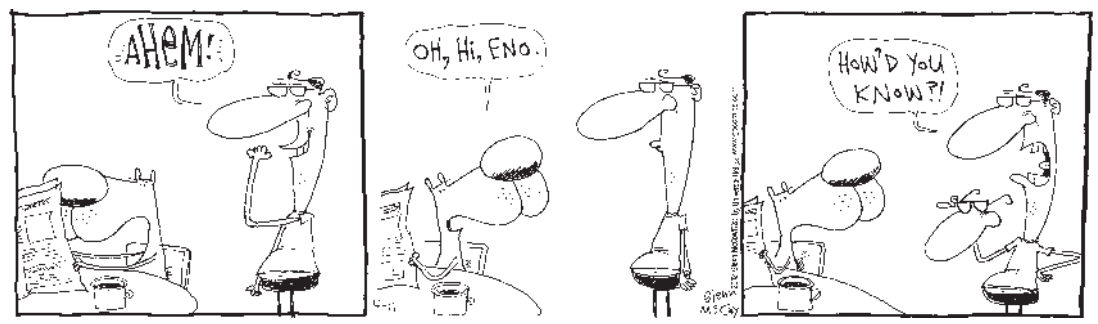
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I CAN'T GET OVER HOW GREAT YOU LOOK.
I OWE IT ALL TO A WORKOUT PROGRAM I STARTED.
JAZZERCISE?
A SET OF DVDS CALLED B&G0-Z.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WATCH DVDS?
WELL, YEAH... AND DO THE EXERCISES.
THERE'S ALWAYS A CATCH.
TODAY'S SPECIA
HAZE SUR
4-11

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

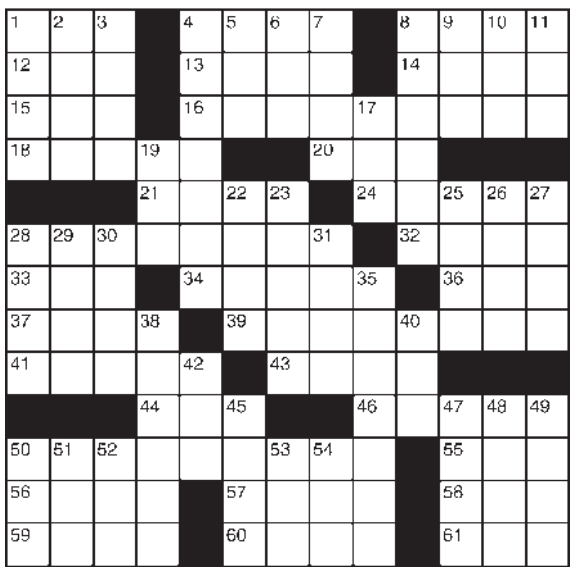
ACROSS
1 Greet the villain
4 Amusement park attraction
8 Sail holder
12 Grecian vessel
13 Jealousy
14 Malaria symptom
15 Long. crosser
16 Too rare
18 Swell
20 "CSI" evidence
21 Complaint
24 2012 TV series about a Broadway show
28 Cousteau's bailiwick
32 Reverberate
33 Witness
34 Ganges garments
36 Charged bit
37 One of the brass
39 Likely loser
41 Razor sharpener
43 Long tale
44 Upper limit, for short
46 Gift of the Magi
50 Sap
55 Debtor's letters
56 Santa's laundry problem
57 Similar (to)
58 Playground game
59 St. Louis landmark
60 Calendar abbr.
61 Commotion

DOWN
1 Socket insert
2 Exam format
3 Aware of
4 AP competitor
5 Hostel
6 Netflix offering
7 Kept tabs on
8 Butterfly or Bovary
9 Past
10 Early riser?
11 Golf gadget
17 Hosp. staffers
19 Honest politician
22 Birthright barterer
23 Flowerless plants
25 Alkali neutralizer
26 "Get lost!"
27 — Kong
28 Works with
29 Barbershop call
30 Antelope's playmate
31 Verdi opera
35 Part
38 "The Iceman —"
40 Shaft of light
42 Standard
45 Opening day?
47 Hayworth or Moreno
48 Thoroughfare
49 "Les Miserables" author
50 N.A. nation
51 Neither mate
52 Happy companion?
53 White House nickname
54 Pinch

Solution time: 21 mins.

W	A	R	D		B	O	O	B		C	B	S
A	G	U	E		O	R	E	O		A	L	P
C	A	M	E	M	B	E	R	I		M	A	H
			P	U	S	S		C	A	B	B	Y
A	R	G	E	D			O	H	N	O		
H	O	A	N		D	E	P	E	N	D	E	D
I	S	M		R	A	K	E	S		I	R	E
D	E	P	L	A	N	E	D		W	A	I	F
			A	I	D	E			T	I	N	N	Y
A	L	I	B	I		E	L	A	N			
B	E	G		C	A	M	A	R	I	L	L	O
B	A	N		A	K	I	N		E	Y	E	D
A	N	S		L	A	R	D		R	E	A	D

Yesterday's answer 4-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelli Garner, 28; Tricia Helfer, 38; Jennifer Esposito, 39; Joel Grey, 80.

Happy Birthday: Make up your mind. Stop pondering what to do next. Look at your options and pick what you can fit into your schedule. Progressive action will bring excellent results that can help you achieve your goals. Commitment to your beliefs, passions and important relationships will improve your life. Your numbers are 3, 9, 15, 23, 31, 39, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't be disheartened by what someone says. Trust in your judgment and follow your heart. Resurrect goals and modify them to fit the changing times. Your ideas are good; all that's required is fine-tuning. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put power and authority in your voice if you want something. Pressure may not be your style, but today it will help you make your point and get your way. A contract, interview or professional advancement is looking positive. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take care of your health and your emotional outlook, and refuse to argue. Discipline and changes that can improve your life should be your intent. Love is on the rise, but poor choices will lead to trouble. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Pour time and energy into creative projects and do your best to explain whatever situation you are being questioned about in an objective but descriptive manner. How you present yourself and your beliefs will make a difference. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may crave change, but don't go overboard. Size up your situation and look at the responsibilities that are likely to develop before you take a leap of faith that has potential to spin out of control. Baby steps will be your best bet. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be true to you; don't let someone turn you into someone you're not. Confusion regarding partnerships is apparent, and it will be necessary to step back from a relationship to re-evaluate your position and intentions. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Listen carefully to get the inside scoop regarding how to take advantage of an opportunity. Make a change in the way you do your job, or pick up a skill that contributes to earning more cash. Hard work will pay off. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Someone from your past will come through for you regarding a job or a partnership that has potential to raise your status. Make a space at home that will be conducive to enhancing your creativity and expanding your financial prospects. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put your heart on the line and spell out what you feel you need in your life to achieve greater satisfaction and happiness. You will not receive unless you ask. You'll know quickly if someone is in your corner or opposing you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Explosive situations always lead to disaster. Avoid anyone who is erratic or refusing to listen to reason. Focus on what you can do to improve your domestic situation and your physical surroundings. A change of residence or upgrading your home will help your emotional outlook. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Old friends will help you reach personal goals. An effort to fix whatever isn't working for you will result in greater encouragement. Love is in the stars. Spending time with someone who strives to live a healthy lifestyle will enhance your life. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let confusion lead you down the wrong path. If someone is sending mixed signals or won't offer a straight answer, move on. A change of heart will occur when you realize the motives someone is harboring. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, compassionate and intuitive. You are imaginative and entertaining. *Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5					
			3	7	9		4	6
4		8				3		9
6		1				5		8
7	2						9	3
	3						6	
		4				9		
		3	8		4	6		
			9	6	1			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	7	8	3	4	5	6	9
3	6	5	1	2	9	4	7	8
4	8	9	7	5	6	2	1	3
9	1	8	4	6	2	3	5	7
7	5	6	3	1	8	9	4	2
2	4	3	5	9	7	6	8	1
6	3	4	9	8	1	7	2	5
5	7	1	2	4	3	8	9	6
8	9	2	6	7	5	1	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ADELE — Solution: 8 letters

N	T	G	N	O	R	T	S	D	N	O	S	A	E	R
Y	I	I	A	R	T	S	E	T	U	B	I	R	T	A
R	Z	N	R	H	S	E	N	O	Y	T	N	E	W	T
O	E	A	E	E	P	B	T	T	H	E	M	E	K	S
L	O	V	R	T	D	N	I	P	L	A	Y	A	G	R
G	E	P	O	C	E	C	M	E	E	L	E	O	U	A
P	X	T	O	L	I	E	P	C	N	R	S	M	G	I
E	P	W	A	L	T	F	N	O	B	P	O	E	N	N
N	E	T	P	A	E	A	D	T	E	R	U	L	I	G
N	R	M	B	E	T	N	R	L	R	T	L	T	N	N
Y	I	L	L	P	A	A	Z	Z	A	J	R	I	A	I
S	E	I	E	E	E	U	L	B	T	N	N	Y	E	L
S	N	C	N	H	S	E	R	F	I	R	S	T	M	L
G	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	O	U	S	O	N	G	O
A	E	C	S	T	A	S	Y	T	G	T	H	G	I	R

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Acceptance, Arts, Best, Blue, Courageous, Crazy, Deep, Ecstasy, Experience, Express, Feeling, First, Fresh, Glory, Gospel, Guitar, Heartbreak, Jazz, Love, Meaning, Melt, Nineteen, One and Only, Penny, Play, Poetry, Rain, Reason, Right, Rolling, Rumor, Simplicity, Song, Soul, Star, Strong, Tables, Talent, Theme, Tired, Tribute, Turning, Twenty-One

Yesterday's Answer: Twist

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Saipan Tribune

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Interested applicants may send Resume to: hr@mrisaipan.com. No phone calls please.

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- **San Jose:** Former SDA Preschool building. Great location. Good condition with fenced yard. Asking: $1,000.00/mo.

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- **San Jose House:** 5-bedroom and 2-bathroom house in San Jose. Good location near Dolphin Wholesale and San Jose Mart. Asking: $1,000.00/mo.

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- ANAKS Condominium: 1 unit available. 2-Bedroom, 1 ½-Bathroom. Ocean view. Asking: $900.00/mo.

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  - i. Lot 031 T 10: 13,118 sq. m., Lot 031 T 11: 13,123 sq. m., Lot 031 T 12: 1,054 sq. m., and Lot 031 T 13: 1,048 sq. m. (4 lots) Asking: $60,000.00
  - ii. Lot 114 T 14: 4,185 sq. m. Asking: $8,000.00
  - iii. Lot 114 T 05: 25,000 sq. m. Asking: $50,000.00
  - iv. Lot 102 T 21: 3,643 sq. m. Asking: $7,500.00
  - v. Lot 118 T 04: 1,190 sq. m. Asking: $5,000.00
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Website: www.realtysaipan.com

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Aluminum Container (will not rust)
Converted to Guest House/Studio

Furnished with split type aircon, built-in shower, vanity with large mirror and separate toilet. Also has sliding patio door with vertical blinds. All in good condition.

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Over 100 food stamp vouchers on hold
Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees
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The flagrance of war
Focus
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KagHS JROTC does well in drill competiti
GCA's January forensic winners

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Goodell upholds penalties in Saints bounty case

NEW YORK (AP)—Roger Goodell sent a message to every coach and player in the NFL: safety first. The league commissioner stuck with his punishments for New Orleans' pay-for-pain bounties on Monday, rejecting Saints coach Sean Payton's appeal of a season-long suspension.

An NFL investigation found that, under Payton's watch, an assistant ran a program offering cash payouts for hits that knocked targeted opponents out of games or hurt them so badly they needed help getting to the sideline.

Next on Goodell's agenda: discipline for players involved in the bounty program that began in 2009, the season the Saints won the Super Bowl.

Given recent history, at least some of those penalties are likely to be tough, too.

The Saints case represents perhaps the starkest example yet of the sea change that the NFL has undergone since medical research and media reports on the long-term damage suffered by football players through concussions began to gain attention.

As recently as October 2009, while testifying before Congress, Goodell did not acknowledge a link between head injuries on the field and brain diseases later in life. And hundreds of NFL retirees are now suing the league for health problems they say began with their playing careers.

Yet the league has taken a series of steps to better protect players in the past couple of years, and just last month expanded the definition of "defenseless players" who may not be hit in the head or neck and cannot be hit by someone leading with a helmet.

AP

In this March 27, 2012 file photo, New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton leaves the NFL owners meeting in Palm Beach, Fla.

While NFL veterans say off-the-books incentives have been around for years, and some current players claim tough talk about hitting opponents where they are injured happens in locker rooms throughout the league, Goodell responded to the Saints case by handing out unprecedented penalties.

In addition to upholding Payton's suspension, which begins next Monday and runs through the Super Bowl in February 2013—by coincidence, in New Orleans—Goodell also affirmed suspensions of eight games for Saints general manager Mickey Loomis and six games for assistant head coach Joe Vitt. He also kept in place a $500,000 fine for the franchise and the loss of draft picks this year and next.

Loomis, who along with the team declined comment Monday, and Vitt begin their suspensions after the preseason ends.

Former defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, who left the Saints in January to join the St. Louis Rams, ran the bounty program and has been suspended indefinitely. He did not appeal.

Suspensions for New Orleans players who participated in the bounty pool could be coming within days.

Goodell set a precedent last season when he made Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh sit out for two games after stomping on an opponent, and Steelers linebacker James Harrison one game for a brutal tackle that gave Browns quarterback Colt McCoy a concussion.

The NFL has said as many as 27 players also could be sanctioned in the scandal. That might include former Saints defensive regulars who have signed elsewhere.

The league's investigation found that Williams' bounty system, which ran from 2009 through 2011, offered cash payments of $1,500 for "knockouts," in which an opposing player was knocked out of a game, or $1,000 for "cart-offs," in which an opponent needed help off the field. The league has said the bounty pool grew as large as $50,000.

The investigation also found that Payton initially lied about the existence of a bounty program and instructed his defensive assistants to do the same.

Goodell showed a bit of leniency Monday, saying in a statement if Payton, Loomis and Vitt "embrace the opportunity and participate in a constructive way," he would consider reducing the financial penalties on them. None of them has been fined, but each will lose significant amounts while not being paid their salaries during the suspensions. Payton, who twice apologized for his role in the bounties, could lose more than $6 million.

Goodell added he would consider modifying the forfeiture of the team's 2013 second-round draft choice, perhaps to a lower round. But New Orleans still will receive a draft penalty next year and will lose this year's second-round pick.

While the Saints await punishment for some players, they have the not-so-small task of finding an interim coach to replace Payton. They have talked to Bill Parcells, Payton's mentor since their days together in Dallas, about coming out of retirement.

Parcells, who turns 71 in August, has said he would consider coaching the Saints if asked to help his former protege. Parcells won two Super Bowls with the New York Giants and took the New England Patriots to a Super Bowl, but has not coached since retiring from the Cowboys after the 2006 season, though he then worked in Miami's front office.

Gasol leads Lakers past Hornets, 93-91

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Pau Gasol had 25 points and nine rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers overcame Kobe Bryant's absence to beat the New Orleans Hornets 93-91 on Monday night.

Bryant missed his second straight game with a sore left shin, but Ramon Sessions helped pick up the slack with 17 points, including a 3-pointer that put the Lakers ahead by six with 26 seconds left. Andrew Bynum added 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who snapped a two-game skid.

Carl Landry had 20 points and 11 rebounds, and Marco Belinelli scored 20 points for New Orleans, which led by as much as eight points in the fourth quarter, before the Lakers stormed back.

Grizzlies 94, Clippers 85

In Memphis, Marc Gasol scored 18 points and Rudy Gay had 16 as the Grizzlies held on to beat the Los Angeles Clippers.

Mike Conley and O.J. Mayo added 13 each for Memphis, which won for the eighth time in 10 games and moved one-half game behind the Clippers for the fourth seed in the Western Conference. Marreese Speights finished had 12 points and Zach Randolph added 10 points and 12 rebounds as the Grizzlies finished with a 48-36 rebounding edge, but committed 20 turnovers.

Chris Paul led Los Angeles with 21 points and six assists, while Blake Griffin had 19 points on 9-of-14 shooting from the field.

Pacers 103, Raptors 98

In Indianapolis, Danny Granger and George Hill scored 18 points each as Indiana took an early lead and held off Toronto.

Paul George had 15 points and Leandro Barbosa added 14 to help the Pacers—third in the Eastern Conference—win for the fourth time in their last five games.

Hill also had seven rebounds and four assists while making his first start of the season in place of the Darren Collison, who sat out with a groin injury sustained in Indiana's loss to Boston on Saturday.

Linas Kleiza scored 18 points—all in the fourth quarter—as the Raptors tried to rally from a 15-point deficit at the start of the period.

Thunder 109, Bucks 89

In Milwaukee, Russell Westbrook scored 26 points and Oklahoma City won its second straight, beating Milwaukee in a game that featured seven technical fouls and an ejection of Bucks backup forward Larry Sanders.

Sanders was ejected after earning a pair of technicals in the second half, while Mike Dunleavy, Brandon Jennings and coach Scott Skiles also were assessed technicals for Milwaukee. Oklahoma City's Nazr Mohammed and Serge Ibaka also were called for technicals.

Kevin Durant added 19 for the Thunder, who broke a three-game losing streak with a victory over Toronto on Sunday.

Ersan Ilyasova scored 18 for the Bucks.

Wizards 113, Bobcats 85

In Charlotte, Jordan Crawford scored 20 points and Washington got 67 points from its reserves in a matchup of the NBA's two worst teams.

James Singleton had 18 points and 12 rebounds and Cartier Martin chipped in with 19 points as the Wizards (13-44) swept the three-game season series from the Bobcats. John Wall scored just two points but had 12 assists.

Magic 119, Pistons 89

In Orlando, Jason Richardson hit six 3-pointers and scored 22 points as Orlando cruised past Detroit.

Glen Davis added 16 points and 16 rebounds starting in place of center Dwight Howard, who missed his third game in two weeks with back spasms.

All five Orlando starters reached double figures in the Magic's first win over the Pistons this season.

The Magic also were playing without backup point guard Chris Duhon, who was suspended for the game for conduct detrimental to the team.

Suns 114, Timberwolves 90

In Minneapolis, Shannon Brown had 17 points and seven rebounds as Phoenix's reserves outscored Minnesota's 66-27.

Markieff Morris led the backups with 21 points and Steve Nash had 14 points and five assists for the Suns, who have won five of their last six games and 11 of 16 to surge back into the playoff picture. They started the day one game behind Denver for eighth in the West.

Kevin Love had 25 points and 13 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who have lost six in a row. They have lost 22 straight games in April dating back to 2009.

Nuggets 123, Warriors 84

In Denver, rookie Kenneth Faried had season highs of 27 points and 17 rebounds, and the Denver never trailed en route to its most lopsided win of the season.

The 39-point margin exceeded Denver's previous high of 29 points against Sacramento on Jan. 25, and coincided with the return of Danilo Gallinari. He helped pick up the offense by scoring 15 points in his first game since breaking his left thumb against Dallas on March 19.

Arron Afflalo also had 15 points, and JaVale McGee and Corey Brewer each added 13 for Denver.

Jazz 91, Spurs 84

In Salt Lake City, Devin Harris scored 25 points, including 11 straight in the fourth quarter, as Utah halted San Antonio's 11-game winning streak and boosted its own playoff hopes.

Paul Millsap added 18 points for the Jazz, who avenged a 114-104 road loss Sunday to the Spurs.

Utah (30-28) is injury riddled but the Spurs (40-15) were short-handed in a different way, choosing not to bring stars Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili for the rematch of the home-and-home set. Coach Gregg Popovich wanted the trio, averaging 46.8 points, to rest.

Rockets 94, Trail Blazers 89

In Portland, Goran Dragic scored 22 points as Houston beat Portland to complete an unbeaten four-game road trip.

Chase Budinger added 15 points off the bench for the Rockets, who beat the Bulls, Lakers and Kings before visiting Portland.

Houston, jockeying for playoff position in the Western Conference, has won six of its last eight games overall.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 20 points and six rebounds for Portland, which trailed by as many as 14 points.

Guillen to return to Florida for Castro apology

AP

Miami Marlins manager Ozzie Guillen looks over his shoulder during the home opener baseball game with the Philadelphia Phillies Monday, April 9, 2012, in Philadelphia.

MIAMI (AP)—Five games into his tenure with the Marlins, motor mouth manager Ozzie Guillen is returning to Miami to explain himself as a backlash builds regarding favorable comments he made about Fidel Castro.

At least two local officials said Guillen should lose his job, and the chairman of the Florida Hispanic Legislative Caucus called Monday for "punitive measures" against him.

Hoping to quell the political tumult, Guillen planned to leave his team briefly in Philadelphia and fly to Miami to apologize Tuesday at Marlins Park. The Marlins and Phillies resume their series Wednesday after a day off Tuesday.

Guillen, a Venezuelan, told Time magazine he loves Castro and respects the Cuban dictator for staying in power so long.

Before Monday's game, Guillen said he has had sleepless nights because of his comments and wants to make amends.

"I'm going to make everything clear what's going on," he said. "People can see me and talk. I've already talked to people. But I think it's the proper thing to see my eyes. They can see me and ask whatever question they want. I think sooner is better. Better for the ballclub, better for me."

He apologized over the weekend after the story broke, but some Cuban Americans remained upset. One group planned a demonstration Tuesday at the ballpark that was organized before Guillen said he would fly to Miami.

Guillen's talkative style often makes headlines, but the timing of his comments about Castro couldn't be worse for the Marlins. They opened a new ballpark last week in the Little Havana neighborhood of Miami and are trying to rebuild their fan base with the help of South Florida's large Cuban American population.

Francis Suarez, chairman of the Miami city commission, said Guillen should be fired.

"Mr. Guillen's admiration for a dictator who has destroyed the lives of so many and who has violated the basic human rights of millions is shameful," Suarez said in a statement. "On behalf of many angry residents, I'm calling for real action to be taken and for the removal of Mr. Guillen."

Joe Martinez, chairman of the Miami-Dade County board of commissioners, issued a statement calling for Guillen to resign.

"This unfortunate comment is an insult to the citizens of Miami-Dade who have been victims of a tyrant in power for over 50 years," Martinez said.

State Sen. Rene Garcia, chairman of the Florida Hispanic Legislative Caucus, described Guillen's comments as appalling and insulting. In a letter to Marlins president David Samson, Garcia said he expects the Marlins to punish Guillen.

"If the Miami Marlins are to be respected in this community, your organization must stand with the Cuban-American exiled community and execute expedient punitive measures against Mr. Guillen which will rectify the situation," Garcia wrote.

Samson and the Marlins organization had no comment Monday. The team released a statement last weekend saying there was nothing to respect about Castro, but Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez said the statement didn't go far enough.

"For too long, the Marlins organization has been the source of controversies in our community," Gimenez said, "and I now challenge them to take decisive steps to bring this community back together."

Guillen said his news conference would be open to "anybody that wants to be there."

"I know I hurt a lot of people," Guillen said. "I want to get the thing over with."

It's not the first time Guillen has stirred a political tempest. He twice appeared on a radio show hosted by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in October 2005, when Guillen led the Chicago White Sox to the World Series title. At the time, Guillen said: "Not too many people like the president. I do."

Chavez is unpopular with many Venezuelans, especially those living in the United States. Guillen became a U.S. citizen in 2006 and has been more critical of Chavez in recent years.

Yankees earn 1st win, 6-2 over Orioles

BALTIMORE (AP)—The New York Yankees finally won for the first time this season, using four hits by Derek Jeter and an effective pitching performance by Ivan Nova to defeat the Baltimore Orioles 6-2 Monday night.

Andruw Jones homered for the Yankees, who averted the fourth 0-4 start in the club's history—the first since 1973. New York began the season by losing three straight to Tampa Bay.

Red Sox 4, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Ryan Sweeney singled home the go-ahead run in the ninth inning as the Boston Red Sox rallied to beat the Blue Jays, spoiling Toronto's home opener and avoiding the first back-to-back 0-4 starts in team history.

Dustin Pedroia homered and scored the tying run as the Red Sox handed new Blue Jays closer Sergio Santos his second blown save in three appearances.

Handed a 2-1 lead to start the ninth, Santos (0-1) surrendered a leadoff double to Pedroia, who advanced to third on a passed ball and scored on a sacrifice fly by Adrian Gonzalez.

Rangers 11, Mariners 5

In Arlington, Texas, Yu Darvish overcome a rocky start and got a big boost from the powerful Texas lineup, winning his much-anticipated major league debut in the Rangers' victory over the Mariners.

After giving up four runs while throwing 42 pitches in the first inning, then allowing another run in the second, Darvish (1-0) settled down and later retired 10 in a row while pitching into the sixth.

Angels 5, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, C.J. Wilson won his awaited Angels debut with seven smooth innings, giving Los Angeles all the boost it needed to beat the Twins and spoil Minnesota's home opener.

Wilson (1-0) allowed three hits while striking out five, giving up only one fly ball, a home run by Josh Willingham. Wilson, who struck out Joe Mauer twice, had a 2-0 lead before he even touched the mound, after Torii Hunter's single and Bobby Abreu's double drove in first-inning runs against Nick Blackburn.

Albert Pujols didn't get a ball out of the infield in four at-bats, but he reached on a fielder's choice, hustled from first to third on a single to center and scored the Angels' first run. Pujols is 3 for 14 through four games, with one run batted in.

White Sox 4, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Chris Sale won his first career start, limiting Cleveland to one run in 6 2-3 innings as he led the White Sox to a win over the Indians.

Sale pitched out of Chicago's bullpen the past two seasons but moved into the rotation after ace Mark Buehrle left as a free agent this winter. The left-hander, who had made 79 relief appearances, took a one-hit shutout into the sixth. In his longest outing, Sale allowed three hits and struck out five.

The 23-year-old had little trouble with a Cleveland team that came in batting .153.

Athletics 1, Royals 0

In Oakland, Tommy Milone allowed three hits over a career-high eight innings in an impressive Oakland debut as the Athletics held off the Royals.

Milone (1-0) faced the minimum in five of his innings, including getting through the fourth despite throwing only two strikes among his 10 pitches.

Perhaps for a night, Milone made it easier for the small group of fans who turned out at the Coliseum to picture life without lefty Gio Gonzalez. The A's acquired Milone from the Nationals in December, sending All-Star Gonzalez to the nation's capital.

Cardinals 7, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Matt Holliday, David Freese and Yadier Molina homered during the Cardinals' big first inning to help the defending World Series champions to a win over the Cincinnati Reds.

St. Louis improved to 4-1 with an offense that hasn't missed Albert Pujols so far.

Only 20 pitches into the game, Reds starter Homer Bailey (0-1) trailed 4-0. It was the second time this season that St. Louis hit three homers in an inning. Molina also doubled home a pair of runs in the eighth.

Marlins 6, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Anibal Sanchez took a three-hitter into the seventh and Omar Infante hit a pair of solo homers as Miami spoiled Philadelphia's home opener.

Sanchez (1-0) allowed two runs and six hits in 6 1-3 innings, outpitching two-time All-Star Cole Hamels (0-1).

Gaby Sanchez had two hits and two RBIs, Emilio Bonifacio had three hits and Austin Kearns hit a solo shot off Jonathan Papelbon.

Giants 7, Rockies 0

In Denver, Barry Zito threw a four-hitter for his first shutout in nine years and Pablo Sandoval hit a two-run homer to lead San Francisco over Colorado.

Zito (1-0) allowed three harmless singles and a double. He didn't walk a batter and struck out four in tossing his fifth career shutout and first since April 18, 2003, against Texas.

Brandon Crawford helped ruin the Rockies' home opener with a three-run double off reliever Matt Reynolds in the fifth that made it 7-0.

Mets 4, Nationals 3

In New York, Daniel Murphy singled home the winning run in the ninth and New York took advantage of a throwing error by reliever Henry Rodriguez to beat Washington.

Kirk Nieuwenhuis hit his first major league homer for the Mets, who are 4-0 for the first time since 2007. Jon Rauch (1-0) worked two hitless innings for his first win with New York.

Astros 8, Braves 3

In Houston, Travis Buck drove in two runs and Justin Maxwell homered in his Houston debut as the Astros rebounded from an early deficit thanks to sloppy defensive play by Atlanta.

Houston trailed 3-0 in the third before a trio of errors by the Braves, with two from third baseman Juan Francisco, led to three unearned runs and tied the game.

Astros starter J.A. Happ drove in the go-ahead run with an RBI single in the fourth that made it 4-3. Pinch-hitter J.D. Martinez and Jose Altuve drove in a run each in the sixth.

Brewers 7, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Aramis Ramirez drove in two runs in his return to Wrigley Field, Ryan Braun got booed relentlessly and Milwaukee hung on to beat Chicago.

The Brewers held a four-run lead going into the ninth before the Cubs scored two runs and had the bases loaded when John Axford struck out Starlin Castro on three pitches to end it.

Shawn Marcum (1-0) settled down after a shaky start and gave up three runs in six solid innings. Rickie Weeks homered, while Braun had two hits and scored a run.

Matt Gamel added a run-scoring triple off Shawn Camp (0-1) and scored in the sixth, breaking a 3-3 tie. Camp gave up three runs on five hits in two inning of work.

Manalili named commissioner; UFO meeting today

Veteran player/coach Ed Manalili has been named commissioner for the 2012 UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League.

Manalili, who plays in masters league and has been coaching youth teams, will oversee UFO caging games and other matters related to the league, which has moved its opening day from April 15 to April 29.

This year's UFO caging will have competitions in four divisions: U14, 15 to 20, 21 to 39, and 40-and-above. League organizers will accept a maximum of eight teams per division and representatives of each interested squad are requested to attend a meeting today at 5:30pm.

The meeting will be held at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe and topics to be discussed include the opening ceremony and league ground rules.

So far, the U14 division, the newest addition in the league, has lured four teams, the same number of squads the 21 to 39 and 40-and-above have at present. In the 15 to 20 age group, three teams so far have expressed interests in competing in the UFO caging.

Expected to return for the 21 to 39 division is back-to-back champion Ali'i Konflikt, which pulled off an upset over the then undefeated and CNMI players-bannered Proa. Ali'i Konflikt won the one-game finals, 94-79.

There was also an upset in the 40-and-above division with MDX/Armatech surprising 2010 champion Cabalen/Wings Travel, 84-79. In the inaugural 15 to 20 division, the Jets defeated Filcag in the finals, 86-80.

Meanwhile, this year's UFO games will be played every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex and Sunday at the Civic Center Court.

For more information, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525, Manalili at 483-4337, Boy Ching at 287-6046 or Abner Venus at 888-7764. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ELIAS

From Page 28

nings and are back in the saddle after enduring a pair of surprising losses.

Although women's frontrunner Check It Out is also still flawless with four wins, Sakudi's (3-2) win closed the gap a little, while the 670 Babes (1-2), The Rookies (1-3), and Enamo Meta (1-4) fill out the rest of the order.

Details of the last game were not made available.

Elias 13, Familia 10

Elias' Gary Cruz cranked out a three-run home run in the top of the first inning for an early lead.

Elias then went ahead, 7-1, in the second inning off four hits and an error, while Jose Iguel bagged an RBI single and Myron Sablan a two-RBI double.

Familia fired back in the bottom frame with four runs off errors and a two-run blast.

The count shifted to 8-6 as both teams added a run in the third and Familia pulled within a run thanks to a base smash by J.D. Dikito in the fourth inning.

Elias managed a run to start the fifth from an RBI single by Cruz, but Familia tied it at 9-all in the bottom frame with a two-run homer by Pat Guerrero.

Elias' Ralph Magofna lifted a solo shot in the sixth and his teammates J.P. Sablan and B.J. Nicolas hammered RBI singles followed up with a sacrifice fly by Cruz in the top half of the seventh to give their team a 13-9 lead heading into the final stand.

Elias' Cruz batted 3-for-3 with five RBIs and two runs.

Sakudi 14, Enamo Meta 4

Sakudi broke out to a 4-0 lead in the first inning off six hits. Clean-up batter Bert Camacho busted an RBI double, while Rachel Salalila and Kiki Aldan bagged RBI singles.

Enamo Meta mustered two runs to start the second, but Sakudi surged ahead, 11-2, in the bottom frame off another hits.

Sakudi's Camacho and Thelma Mizer hustled around for back to back in the park home runs; the former went for three runs and another teammate belted a two-RBI triple later in the inning.

Enamo could only come up with another couple of runs in the bottom portion and Sakudi added two more runs in the top of the third from an RBI single by Liz Lebria and a triple by Camacho, which she tried to stretch all the way a home, but was nailed out at the plate.

Sakudi's defense held strong in the late innings and Juanette Atalig drove in the run needed to earn the early decision.

Sakudi's Camacho batted 3-for-3 with five RBIs and two runs.

SUNRISERS

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Crystal Pure match is set for 8pm. Losers of tonight's playoff games will join Mobil and SCS in the showers.

Last Monday's playoff games were held after the league took a weeklong break and the Sunrisers showed some rust due to the lull, allowing SCS to control the first three periods of the match.

SCS led by as much as eight in the second period before the Sunrisers' outside shots began falling in the third and fourth canto to engage SCS in a see-saw battle and force several deadlocks.

The match was last tied at 75-all after an SCS putback and Preston Basa had a chance to break the tie with his two charities, but missed both. Jack Lizama collared the rebound, drew a foul on Pete Lizama, and trooped to the stripe, but made only one free throw for SCS' precarious one-point lead, 76-75, 26 seconds left on the clock.

Another Basa miss, this time from the 3-point area, returned possession to SCS, as Lizama fought for the loose ball and was fouled anew. However, Lizama muffed both pressure-packed charities and with seven seconds left in the match, Joyner grabbed the rebound and dribbled all the way to their frontcourt with SCS defenders hounding him. He then stopped and popped past the top key of the rainbow arc for the game-winning shot.

The second playoff match between the favored Mobil and dark horse Andhok's was another cardiac game with the former wasting several opportunities to eliminate the latter.

Mobil was in front for the last time, 70-69, after Jun Estolas completed a three-point play, 50.5 seconds left on the clock. Mike Umali swung the lead back to Andhok's with his own and-1 play, but missed the bonus charity, 71-70.

It was Bart Demapan's turn to step on the 15-foot line in the ensuing play after driving into the basket and drawing a foul from Umali. However, Demapan's nerves got the better of him, as he faltered both free throws. Demapan tried to redeem himself when he got the offensive board after the second miss, but he overshot his mark and was forced to foul Jorge De Guzman to stop the clock that read at 16.5.

De Guzman then had a split, giving Andhok's a two-point cushion, 72-70. Mobil sued for time after De Guzman made his second free throw and when the game resumed, the former went to its moneyman, Estolas, who was fouled on his way to the basket. Estolas, who earlier went 7-for-7 from the stripe, this time was 0-for-2 and after the second miss, Mobil was obliged to give up another foul.

With 5.5 seconds left, Gino Libuw went to the foul line, missed his first charity, but hit the second one for Andhok's 73-70 lead. Mobil called time-out anew to set up a game-tying play for Estolas. Mobil players followed the game plan, but failed to complete it, as after coming off a screen from Gyles Ruluked and having a clean look at the basket from the left key, Estolas' triple was too strong. The Mobil gunner made another attempt when he got the offensive rebound, but his heave near the right sideline was way short as time expired.

Libuw top-scored in Andhok's upset over Mobil with his 19 points, while Raymark Castro and De Guzman added 15 and 14, respectively. Umali chipped in 10, while Tim Wesley had only six points, but was a force in the paint, making several blocked shots against Mobil's big men. Wesley held Ruluked to a quiet 12 points and only two in the final canto.

The fourth quarter started with Andhok's launching an 8-0 run to turn a 53-52 lead to a 61-52 advantage, with still over eight minutes left in the game. Mobil coach Marvin Deocares pressed the panic button after Andhok's led by nine and Estolas anchored a comeback before falling under pressure in the home-stretch against the rag-tag crew of Andhok's coach Boy Garcia.

First Game

Sunrisers/Island Apparel 77 – Joyner 21, Lizama 16, Basa 15, Sablan 12. Mendez 7, Manibusan 6.

SCS Heavy Equipment 76 – Lizama 26, Galarse 21, Mina 9, Ritual 8, Tamayo 8, Pantaleon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-23, 37-41, 57-54, 77-76.

Second Game

Andhok's 73 – Libuw 19, Castro 15, De Guzman 14, Umali 10, Wesley 6, Capalad 5.

Mobil 70 – Estolas 27, Fernando 11, Ruluked 12, Demapan 10, Moises 8.

Scoring by quarters: 18-20, 33-35, 53-52, 73-70.

FIELDERS

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In an effort to regroup, they battled back to grab a brief 4-7 count with three runs in the fifth inning off a wild pitch and some errors, but were struck down again by the Fielders who brought around four runs in the bottom frame. Brel bagged an RBI single and Tenorio an RBI double.

D-9ers blipped a run in the sixth and the Fielders delivered another knockout blow this time in the form of six runs to run-away, 17-4, in the bottom frame.

Winning pitcher Elton Santos gave up one earned run off two hits, three walks, and a hit batsman with 10 strikeouts through five innings.

Santos was solid on the mound, but with a promising lead already in hand, was tapped by Brel at the start of the sixth inning. Brel did a good job securing the early decision and held the D-9ers to just one run in the final stand..

Fielders' Tenorio batted 2-for-2 with two RBIs, three runs, a pair of stolen bases, and three base on balls. Brel went 3-for-5 with two RBIs, three runs, and four steals. D-9ers leadoff man Esiah Lizama swung 3-for-4 with a run.

WILD

From Page 28

vantage at the break.

Then eight minutes into the second half, Daniel Wollak made it a 3-0 lead and Wild Bill's continued to pull away with Unsa Tanapon and Dan Westphal also scoring in the 14th and 29th minute.

Inter Godfather's 8, SKY 2

In other Division A game, Inter Godfather's finally broke into the win column after beating SKY.

Inter Godfather's, which drew its first two matches and lost the third, had eight players contributing one goal each to give the team its first win of the season. Suriya Mongkhonat, Chris Nelson, Peter Loken, Peter Houk, Evan Husnberger, and Arkie Reusora scored for Inter in the first half for a commanding 6-0 lead.

After its silence in the first 45 minutes of SKY managed to avoid a shutout loss when it scored two goals in the second half, matching Inter's output. Min Sun Kim drilled both goals for SKY FC, while Masatoshi Otsuka and Emory Fitial had one each for Inter.

Inter Godfather's remained in third place behind Wild Bill's and Paire, while SKY dropped to a 0-1-3 card for last place.

Matansa 5, Shirley's FC 1

In the last game of the week, Matansa downed Shirley's FC.

Matansa drew three goals from Kamrul to improve to a 2-1-2 record in Division B, while Shirley's is still winless after five games.

Kamrul gave Matansa its first goal, scoring in the 19th minute, while Dhiraj Chetri also found the back of the net 10 minutes before the first half ended. It took a while before Matansa scored anew in the second half, but the last three goals came in a span of three minutes with Kamrul hitting back-to-back goals (64th and 65th) and Hyung Jin Kim nailing one in the 67th minute.

Shirley's scored the last goal of the game, courtesy of Jack Phan (72nd).

Shirley's played two games last week, as it also dueled MP United on April 4 and lost, 2-5.

MP United holds a 2-2-0 record for second place behind Tan Holdings (3-1-0).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	24	.571	–
New York	29	27	.518	3
Philadelphia	29	27	.518	3
New Jersey	21	37	.362	12
Toronto	20	38	.345	13

Southeast Division

x-Miami	40	15	.727	–
Atlanta	34	23	.596	7
Orlando	34	23	.596	7
Washington	13	44	.228	28
Charlotte	7	48	.127	33

Central Division

x-Chicago	43	14	.754	–
Indiana	35	22	.614	8
Milwaukee	28	29	.491	15
Detroit	21	36	.368	22
Cleveland	18	36	.333	23 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	40	15	.727	–
Memphis	33	23	.589	7 1/2
Houston	32	25	.561	9 1/2
Dallas	31	26	.544	10
New Orleans	15	42	.263	26

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	42	15	.737	–
Denver	31	26	.544	11
Utah	30	28	.517	12 1/2
Portland	27	31	.466	15 1/2
Minnesota	25	33	.431	17 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	36	22	.621	–
L.A. Clippers	34	23	.596	1 1/2
Phoenix	30	27	.526	5 1/2
Golden State	22	34	.393	13
Sacramento	19	38	.333	16 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Washington 113, Charlotte 85
Indiana 103, Toronto 98
Orlando 119, Detroit 89
L.A. Lakers 93, New Orleans 91
Memphis 94, L.A. Clippers 85
Oklahoma City 109, Milwaukee 89
Denver 123, Golden State 84
Utah 91, San Antonio 84
Phoenix 114, Minnesota 90
Houston 94, Portland 89

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	3	0	1.000	–
Baltimore	3	1	.750	1/2
Toronto	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Boston	1	3	.250	2 1/2
New York	1	3	.250	2 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	3	0	1.000	–
Chicago	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Kansas City	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Cleveland	1	3	.250	2 1/2
Minnesota	0	4	.000	3 1/2

West Division

Texas	3	1	.750	–
Seattle	3	2	.600	1/2
Los Angeles	2	2	.500	1
Oakland	2	3	.400	1 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	4	0	1.000	–
Washington	2	2	.500	2
Miami	2	3	.400	2 1/2
Philadelphia	1	3	.250	3
Atlanta	0	4	.000	4

Central Division

St. Louis	4	1	.800	–
Houston	3	1	.750	1/2
Pittsburgh	2	1	.667	1
Cincinnati	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Milwaukee	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Chicago	1	3	.250	2 1/2

West Division

Arizona	3	0	1.000	–
Los Angeles	3	1	.750	1/2
Colorado	1	3	.250	2 1/2
San Diego	1	3	.250	2 1/2
San Francisco	1	3	.250	2 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Miami 6, Philadelphia 2
San Francisco 7, Colorado 0
Milwaukee 7, Chicago Cubs 5
St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 1
N.Y. Mets 4, Washington 3
Houston 8, Atlanta 3
L.A. Angels 5, Minnesota 1
Chicago White Sox 4, Cleveland 2
N.Y. Yankees 6, Baltimore 2
Boston 4, Toronto 2
Texas 11, Seattle 5
Oakland 1, Kansas City 0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Run Leg of 2012 Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Austria's Carina Wasle celebrates as she nears the finish line of the 2012 Tagaman Triathlon.

U.S. pro Will Kelsay gestures as he crosses the finish line.

Switzerland's Renata Bucher hugs the tape after a fourth place finish in the women's division.

Two runners cruise along Beach Road.

Two triathletes pass the aid station.

Mamiko Oshima-Berger smiles as the crowd cheers for her.

Florence Antonio waves for the camera as she cruises along Beach Road.

Danny Garcia starts the run leg at Micro Beach.

Barefoot runner Chang Wan Jang heads to the run course.

Tinian's Janet King starts the run leg at Micro Beach.

Goodell upholds penalties in Saints bounty case

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Guillen to return to Florida for Castro apology

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Sunrisers, Andhok's survive playoff foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two down-to-the-wire finishes highlighted the start of the playoff round of the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity Basketball Invitational Friendship League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Sunrisers' Jawn Joyner, left, tries to keep the ball away from SCS' Bon Tamayo during the second quarter of their playoff game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In the first game, Jawn Joyner hit a buzzer-beating jumper to lift the top-seeded Sunrisers/Island Apparel to a 77-76 win over last playoff qualifier SCS Heavy Equipment Rental, while second-ranked Mobil Smiles missed four free throws in the homestretch, allowing the seventh-seeded Andhok's to pull off an upset in the second playoff match, 73-70.

The Sunrisers are now in the semifinals and will be facing the winner of the QQ Car Rental-Crystal Pure game this Friday, while Andhok's semis foe will be the victor of the Blue Haus-Shirley's Coffee Shop tiff. Blue Haus plays Shirley's tonight at 6:30pm, while the QQ-

See SUNRISERS on Page 26

Fielders bury D-9ers, 17-6

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
IT&E Fielders' Ton Tenorio eyes a pitch in their SML matchup against D-9ers last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

IT&E Fielders bounced back from its debut loss with a swift 17-6 victory over D-9ers in seven innings as the Saipan Major League's 2012 season continued Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Fielders' Ton Tenorio drove in Jimmy Brel to break the ice for the home team in the opening frame and they added two more runs in the second off an RBI single by designated hitter Wenser Namelo, who later scored off an error.

D-9ers mustered a run to start the third inning, but the Fielders trotted ahead, 6-1, in the bottom half off three hits. Justin Reyes bashed a two-RBI single and scored on an error.

D-9ers stranded just its third base runner in the top of the fourth, and had a little trouble trying to close the third out of the bottom frame.

See FIELDERS on Page 26

Elias holds off Familia, 13-10

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Elias outlasted Familia, 13-10, in Monday's Chamolinian Softball Association 2012 Budweiser Slow Pitch Softball League men's pairing held at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

The win put Elias in a tie for third place with Manelos. Both teams share identical 3-1 win-loss cards and trail only Natibu (5-0) and Man Amigos (4-0) in the standings.

Behind them are Your Balls (3-1), Berdax (3-2), Gagu Eyez (3-2), X-clusive (3-3), Six Pack (2-2), G-Ballers (2-3), Familia (2-4), Saipal (2-4), The Warriors (1-3), Talu Fahn (1-5), and Managaha (0-5).

Meanwhile, in women's play Sakudi routed Enamo Meta, 14-4, in five in-

See ELIAS on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Sakudi's Bert Camacho waits on an incoming pitch in Monday's Chamolinian Softball Association women's match against Enamo Meta at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Wild Bill's clobbers Paire in men's league

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Wild Bill's goalie Glenn Smith goes for a catch during the second half of their game against Paire in the NMIFA men's league last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Wild Bill's won the battle of undefeated teams, whipping Paire, 5-0, during the second game in the 2012 NMIFA Men's Spring League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Wild Bill's now has a 4-0-0 win-draw-loss record to fortify its hold to the top spot in the five-team Division A, while Paire completed the first round of the double-round robin competition with a 2-1-1 slate.

Five different Wild Bill's players scored in the shutout win with Jack Thoensaket starting things out for the team with his goal in the 22nd minute of the first half. Adul Detdon was next to light up the scoreboard late in the first half, giving Wild Bill's a 2-0 ad-

See WILD on Page 26